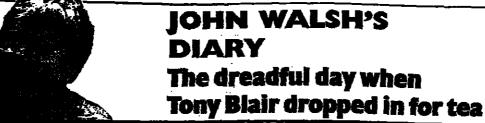
YOU COULDN'T **MAKEIT UP How TV documentaries** fake the truth



JOHN LYTTLE ON JUSTIN FASHANU When prejudice reached fever pitch



Newspaper of the Year for photographs INDEP

Secret plans reveal plot behind coup

- If this is acceptable to you , public sech & return far a copy of this letter. ON RECENT OF YOUR PAI WE WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH BANK ONTAILS FOR TRANSMISSION OF THE SUSY OF USS

A memo outlining terms for British mercenaries to plan Sierra Leone coup

By Fran Abrams and Andrew Buncombe

THE Independent can today reveal the secret negotiations that ended with British merce- Nations arms embargo. naries helping to overthrow the Sierra Leone regime in a bloody counter coup.

As government embarrass ment grew over poreign comce involvement in the plot, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, yesterday promised an independent inquiry into the claims that British officials covertly gave approval to the mercenaries.

full extent of the planning for ternational law," he said. the coup in a series of exchanges between the exiled government of Sierra Leone, an arms dealer wanted for alleged money laundering and the former Army officer Lieutenant-Colonel Tim Spicer, head of Sandline International Ltd, who describe themselves as "military consultants". The negotiations, conducted by faxed letters and cellular phones, stretched from Canada to the West African state of Guinea.

The documents also show the costs involved in planning an operation to overthrow the regime. In one letter, Lt-Col Spicer explains that one week's consultancy will cost \$60,000 (£35,000). He says that additional expenses to make a presentation of the plan in Africa will cost \$10,000.

"You asked for assistance with a military appreciation of up to the dispatch box in Parthe credible options," he says, we are certainly able to assist."

The Foreign Secretary yestion amid growing evidence organise a counter-coup to remined by the scandal."

that Foreign Office staff knew mercenaries were engaged to reinstate Sierra Leone's elected president, Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, in breach of a United

Mr Cook was forced to the of neighbouring governments despatch box to respond to the and arms and training supplied allegations after the Speaker, by Sandline, in February 1998. Betty Boothroy accepted and lëstion from the terial approval had ever been given for the activities of Sandline International Ltd.

"I can assure the House that we have not, and we will The documents show the not, condone any breach of in-

Inside

Anatomy of a very secret coup, page 4 Leading article, page 20

It was "a matter of deep concern" that his fellow minister Tony Lloyd had been ill-informed by his officials, Mr Cook added. Mr Lloyd answered a Parliamentary debate on the issue in March, two days after a Customs and Excise investigation was lannehed into Sandline's activities, but knew nothing about the inquiry at the time.

Clearly laying the blame on officials, Mr Cook told the House: "I do believe that it is unsatisfactory that he was put liament to speak to the House

without being informed." Inquiries by The Independent terday promised the investiga- have established that plans to

instate President Kabbah, exiled in Guinea, began as early as July 1997 - two months after he was ousted by rebel forces beaded by Johnny Paul Koroma. He was

finally reinstated with the help

"Customs and Excise are in-Opposition. He said no minis- by Sandline and the possible involvement of the British anthorities, in particular the High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, Peter Penfold. The Independent revealed yesterday that Sandline had met FCO officials just weeks before it shipped 30 tons

of arms to pro-Kabbah forces. Mr Cook said an independent figure would be called in to investigate once the Customs and Excise inquiry and any subsequent prosecution were

complete. Some Africa-watchers expressed doubts about Mr Kabbah's human rights record. Dr Abdel Fatan Musah, a consultant to the British American Security Information Council, a nongovernmental organisation concerned with arms dealing, said 2,000 opponents of Mr Kabbah had been jailed since his return

and 60 faced death sentences.

"The restoration of the Kabbah regime has not in any way advanced the cause of democracy in Sierra Leone. Opponents of the regime are being rounded up and reports filtering out indicate instances of serious human rights violations" he said. The credibility of the ethical UK foreign policy and the proposed EU code of conduct could be seriously under25 die, 70 missing, in Italian mudslides



A fireman rescues a child in the village of Sarno, near Salerno in southern Italy

THE Italian government declared a state of emergency after torrents of mud and water unleashed by two days of incessant rain engulfed hundreds of homes in the southern Italian region of Campania yesterday, killing at least 25 people.

Rivers of mud burst into

houses and bridges, swallowing Olga Santaniello, who in the 1980s cars and sending panicked residents fleeing in the heavily populated area south of Naples.

A 34-year-old woman and her three children were killed when the mud swept through their home in Bracigliano, dragging them downstream for half a

mile. The children's father escaped by climbing on to the roof. spokesman for the Legambiente In the town of Quindici, the town centres, tearing apart mudside killed the former mayor,

led a campaign against the powerful organised crime syndicate in the region, the Camorra. Rescue services said at least 70 more people were still missing Environmentalists yesterday blamed bad land management for the tragedy. "This disaster was totally predictable," Alberto Fiorilio, a

environmental group. Further report, page 15

'Designer baby' fears after 50 screened births

By Jeremy Laurance Health Editor

MORE than 50 children have been born in Britain after being screened for genetic defects in what critics warn could be the first step towards the creation of designer babies.

The figures were disclosed by Professor Lord Winston, the test tube baby pioneer, whose clinic at Hammersmith hospital, London, is one of four in the country permitted to carry out the work by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority.

The authority is preparing a consultation paper on the technique, called pre-implantation diagnosis, in which embryos are selected to be free of genetic defects before being replaced in the womb, following concerns expressed by pro-life groups that scientists are "meddling in human evolution". A spokesman for the authority said yesterday. "This is one of the biggest issues we are dealing with. The implications are enormous."

Lord Winston said the technique of pre-implantation diagnosis was the last hope for desperate parents who had suffered repeated miscarriages or seen previous children die. The technique has so far been used in a handful of fatal disorders caused by single genes including cystic fibrosis, Duchennes muscular dystrophy and Taysach's disease. A test for the breast cancer gene, BrCaI, that gives women who inherit it an 80-90 per cent chance of developing the disease, was likely to be the next development, he said.

However, he dismissed sug-

new era of designer babies and trigger demand from parents for socially desirable characteristics in their children.

Speaking at a meeting organised by the Centre for Bioethics and Public Policy. which has warned that pre-implantation diagnosis could be the start of a slippery slope towards eugenics and the quality control of children, he said: "I have no doubt that its uses will be extended but in a limited way. In spite of the exaggerated claims made for it, pre-implantation diagnosis seems to me a relatively insignificant technology. It is of limited value for a small number of parents but those parents are desparately deserving of something better than the al-

Parents carrying a gene for one of the rare disorders currently faced an appalling choice between abortion, taking a "russian roulette" style chance on having an affected baby or remaining childless.

ternatives."

Dr David King, editor of Genethics News, predicted that developments in the technology over the next decade would extend the availability of genetic testing and make it possible without the invasive procedures involved in extracting eggs and replacing embryos. Even though most human characteristics were controlled by multiple genes, sophisticated techniques of embryo selection could increase the chances of having a healthy baby.

"We will begin to hear that sex is for fun but having children is a serious matter which must not be left to chance. We will be told that gestions that advances in the children have a right to the best technique would usher in a genetic chance in life," he said.

STO OUT

Contact Lenses

Special Offer

VISION DIRECT LEE.

Sinn Fein backs Ulster peace

By David McKittrick Ireland Correspondent

THE leaderships of Sinn Fein and the IRA have taken a momentous decision for republicans: to work the Good Friday agreement and allow their members to take their seats in the new Belfast assembly.

With Tony Blair and John Major visiting Belfast yesterday in a unique joint venture aimed at promoting the agreement, the drive is now on for a substantial Yes vote in the 22 May ref-



erendums designed to endorse main organisation, in part be- "represents effectively the exthe accord.

Sinn Fein's ard-chomhairle (executive committee) will ask a special conference, due on Sunday, to drop the decades old stipulation in its constitution against members taking seats in a "partitionist" Belfast institution.

It is believed the IRA has approved the move in a decision thought to have been taken at an IRA convention in the Irish Republic last month. A two-thirds majority is required at the conference, though with IRA and Sinn Fein leaders in favour, the result is in little doubt.

The historic nature of the move in republican terms can be seen in the fact that both the

cause of plans to drop traditional abstentionism. Meeting on Tuesday, the

Sinn Fein executive, gave qualified approval to the Good Friday agreement, deciding to propose changes to the party's constitution and to call for yes votes in both referendums. In a statement to be placed before the conference, the executive said while the Good Friday document did not far as far as it would have liked, it heralded major change, weakened the union and was all-Ireland in character.

Saying a transitional process could provide a pragmatic route to Irish independence it added: "It is another staging post on the Provisional IRA and Provi- road to a peace settlement." It sional Sinn Fein were formed in said that in some areas the pro-1969 by dissidents who left the posed new north-south council

ercise of joint authority".

The republican stance drew guarded public welcome in London and Dublin, although privately both governments will be pleased. The move, while highly sensitive in republican terms, reflects the fact that nationalist approval for the accord is close to unanimous.

A claim by Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble that the IRA intended to shortly decommission a token amount of weaponty was dismissed by Sinn Fein as "a flight of fancy which is not based on reality." Mr Trimble added: "The important thing is whether they are going to make it clear that their terrorist campaign is over and that we are going to have a genuine peace."

England captain on kicking charge

By Glenn Moore Football Correspondent

ALAN SHEARER last night found that being England's captain and talisman in World Cup year did not put him above the laws of the Football Association.

The Newcastle United centre-forward was charged with misconduct for allegedly kicking another player in the head. However, Shearer will not miss any World Cup matches if he is found guilty by an FA commission of the assault on Neil Lennon of Leicester City, eight days ago, nor will the footballer miss the FA Cup final

against Arsenal on 16 May. The decision to charge Historic union, page 2 | Shearer was taken by Graham



Shearer: Misconduct charge

Kelly, the chief executive of the FA, after studying video evidence of the incident. In it Shearer appears to kick Lennon, who is on the ground. Full story, Sport, page 32

Low cost replacement FREE sample solution with OFFER all orders placed before 31st May 1998* ● FREE Mail Order Delivery No hidden fees, no obligations SAVE upto 50% on Contact Lenses 1-Day Lenses from 99p Brand names such as: ACUVUE, SUREVUE, FOCUS 1-Day Award/SofLens, Precision UV, Lunelle, FreshLook, Omniflex, and many many more... *Choice: Complete, OPTI-1, AOSEPT, OXSEPT 1-Step **BROCHURE HOTLINE CALL US TODAY** 0800 0723 724 Internet: www.visiondirect.co.uk BY POST: FREEPOST Lon 10238, Wirral, L45 1BR Please send me a price list now!

INSIDE GUIDE: WEATHER, P2 . CROSSWORDS, P32 AND EYE P10 . TODAY'S TELEVISION, EYE P12 . FULL CONTENTS, P2

28 pages of film and music

lt's moral, but is it good? **Ryan Gilbey** on 'Lolita'



PLUS

Cannes preview: Your guide to the world's flashiest. trashiest film festival

■ Country Joe: What's he fighting for now?

CONTENTS

Foreign	13-16
Arts	17
Features	I8
Obituaries	19
Leader & letters	20
Comment	21
Business	22-24
Shares	25
Unit trusts	26
Sport	27-32
Crosswords 32 & The	Eve K
TV & radio The Eye	a. 11 . 12



Judges get power to stop rape trial ordeal

Home Affairs Correspondent

THE Lord Chief Justice said yesterday that judges in rape trials should intervene to prevent complainants being deliberately intimidated by defendants who opted to conduct their own cross-examination.

In a judgement which effectively gives guidelines on the issue to lower courts, Lord Bingham said a defendant was entitled to ask questions, but if he deliberately prolonged the Appeal, Lord Bingham was

process, the judge should call a giving judgment refusing Milton halt or even take over the ques- Brown leave to appeal against tioning himself to save the com- his conviction and 16-year plainant from avoidable distress.

manner or questions to dominate, intimidate or humiliate the ably apprehended that he will seek to do so, the judge should not hesitate to order the erection of a screen in addition to controlling the questioning." Speaking at the Court of

prison sentence for twice rap-He said: "If the defendant ing a woman and indecently. Lord Bingham had not gone far seeks by his dress, bearing, assaulting and falsely imprisoning another. At his Knightsbridge Crown

complainant, or if it is reason- Court trial last November, 44year-old Brown sacked his defence team, conducted his own defence and subjected his victims to merciless cross-examination up to 10 minutes and making explicit suggestions to them.

victims, Sandra Summers, 38, who waived her right to anonymity after he was jailed, said enough in his comments.

Mrs Summers said: "Alleged sex attackers should not be allowed to question their victims at all. The ordeal is too terrible. I do not think most women could cope.

Lord Bingham, sitting with pausing between questions for Mr Justice Turner and Mr Justice Penry-Davey, said Judge Pontius had conducted the rape

Yesterday, one of Brown's trial with great fairness and judgment and did everything he rights. thought he could to protect the

But his closing remarks on the right to cross-examine prompted the Court of Appeal to "offer such help as we can give to any trial judge who may, in the immediate future, face a similar difficulty

Lord Bingham said there was no doubt the law could be changed to oblige a defendant to be legally represented, but some would see this as an in-

A trial judge's duty was, of course, to ensure the accused received a fair trial, but he must also have regard for the interests of other parties, particularly

witnesses who were obliged to re-live their ordeal. In cases such as the present, it would often be desirable, before any questions were put, to discuss the course of proceedings with the defendant in the

absence of the jury. A defendant should be told

fringement of their customary in advance that, having made a point, he would be required to move on. If he refused to do so, the judge should intervene.

The Brown rape trial prompted Home Secretary Inck-Straw to promise a change in the law. "I am determined that we will stop putting victims the court." this traumatising expectation

A Home Office W group has been examining be ter ways to protect with witnesses – including rape victin - in the criminal justice system

United: Tony Blair, Prime Minister, with John Major, former prime minister, answering questions at a press conference in Belfast yesterday

Historic union for peace brokers of Ulster

By Kim Sengupta

started the process, met in Belfast yesterday in an unprecedented show of cross party unity behind a "yes" vote in

pose its acceptance at the Ard, and they also stressed the need Fheis at the weekend. And news TONY BLAIR, who drove also came overnight that coun- and sectarianism of the past. through the Northern Ireland cils across Northern Ireland, inpeace agreement, and John cluding Ballymena, seen as being involved two of the thorniest enable to adjust them to "polic. It is the desire of "those who warning note over a decom-Major, who can claim to have in the Paisleyite heartland, had voted to accept the deal.

meetings. He and Mr Major The meeting of the current took part in a question and an-met members of the recently and former prime ministers swer session at Belfast's Waterford Hall during which they Good Friday accord. Sinn Fein repeatedly stressed that the police officers at a training col-

to break away from the divisions

Mr Blair's next two meetings problems facing the peace agreement: the coming Protestant The Prime Minister arrived marching season and the fears in Belfast in driving rain for a about the proposed reform of brief but significant series of the RUC and the early release of convicted terrorists. Mr Blair constituted Parades Commission and then went on to meet

the province, were the future, would only be freed if the or- the chance of a settlement lieves that Ian Paisley and ganisations they belong to per- which had eluded the people of Robert McCarttey can achieve

manently disown violence. The the British Isles for 400 years." terms more likely to gain wide-RUC, he said, would be reformed but with full consent to 'no' vote will be a 'no' to hope". ing in more normal times". Earlier, Mr Major had de- and cast casually aside the oplivered a ringing endorsement portunities ahead".

of the agreement in a speech to the Northern Ireland Chamber of Ulster now say no to what has of Commerce: "I do not wish to see this generation and the John Hume and John Alderdice, next relive the miseries of the past ... A 'yes' vote would be a tatives of the main paramilitary must know they cannot cherry huge advance. It is the right vote organisations, to whom will the pick from the agreement that sources revealed that the party's pupils, from 11 schools across lege. He stressed that prisoners for the future, bringing with it Province say yes? ... who be-was reached."

Mr Major declared that "a

He continued: "If the people been agreed by David Trimble. let alone the political represen-

spread community support?"

But Mr Major sounded a cling rigidly to past certainties missioning of weapons: "Now and insist they will not decommission their weapons. No one can be certain if their statement is aimed at their own internal divisions, whether it's bluff or whether they mean it. But they

Inquir into T fakes claim

By Paul McCann Media Editor

THE Independent Television Commission is investigating allegations by a newspaper that an award-winning Carlton TV documentary on Colombian drugs smagglers was faked.

The watchdog has wants a tape of the programme, The Connection, and is considering requesting rushes and out-takes from the film to see if it can uncover evidence that the main elements were staged. Carlton has told the ITC that it is conducting its own inquiry. A spokesman for the ITC said the investigation was unprecedented.

After the story was published yesterday in the Guardian Carlton lawyers spent the day closeted with the channel's former head of documentaries Roger James and the producer of The Connection Marc de Beaufort. They have been told to say nothing to the press. Both men left Carlton last year for an independent production firm.

Carlton says it has been cooperating with the Guardian for months on the story and will continue to help. A company spokesman refused lo reveal whether the broadcaster was planning to refute the claims.

The Connection told the story of a new heroin route into. Britain from Colombia It inswallowing packages of the drug and flying them into Britain, and an interview with: the number three boss of the Cali drug cartel that was supposed to have taken place at a secret location.

You couldn't make it up,

900

i.

Grigo .

Bildings of 0 4 5

E.n.

Paragraph

 $a(b_{\tau_{i+1},\tau_{i+1}})$

jeneraje - L

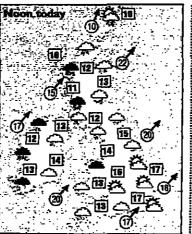
dan e ...

 $\mathsf{fard}_{\mathfrak{f}, \widetilde{\gamma}, \psi_{\mathfrak{G}_{\mathfrak{f}}}}$

 $\operatorname{ad} P^{t, R^{t, -}}$

FUNNY AND HEARTBREAKING... **EVERY WORD** RINGS TRUE Walking in the Shade OUT NOW IN PAPERBACK

WEATHER



Northern heland, the north of England and southern Scotland will have outbreaks of rain. The rain will be heaviest in the west with brighter intertudes to the east of the Pennines later. Northern Scotland will start fine, but rain will arrive this atternoon. The Midlands, southeast England and eastern parts of Wales will be dry with hazy sunstrine developing, but south-west England and west Wales will be more cloudy with a few spots of

Outlook for the next few days Scotland and Northern Ireland will have further rain tomorrow, heaviest in the west. Western England and Wales will have another cloudy day, but the Midlands, south-east England and East Anglia will be dry and very warm with decent sunny spells. Over the weekend it thundary showers are possible in the south and rain will affect western Scotland and Northern tretand. British Isles weather most recent actitable ligare at noon local time C. cloudy: Cl. clear: Flair: Fig. Fog. Hz. hazzr, M. misst. Rusin;

Abardees Sa 11 52 Gaerasey D 11 52 Anglosey Ipversess .C 10 50 C 10 50 Isles of ScillyC 12 54 Birmingham C 15 59 Jersey Blackpool C 12 54 Liverpool Bearnemouth R 14 57 London Newcastie F 12 54 Cardiff C 12 54 Oxford C 14 57 C 11 52 Plymosth C 11 52 C 14 57 Scarberough C 13 55 Edinburgh St 13 55 Seatherd C 15 59 Exeter Sh 14 57 Stereoway Sh 8 46 Glasgow Sh 8 46 Yerk Sh 12 54 INDEPENDENT Weatherline

Air quality

Call **0336 481777** for the talest local and national malic news. Source: The Automobile Association. Calls changed per min at all times (inc VAT)

21.08 to 05.31 Sun sizes 05.22 20.44 to 05.23 Sun sets 20.33 20.43 to 05.30 Moon rete: 16.13 21.07 to 05.19 Moon sets 04.07 20.33 to 05.21 May 11 20.53 to 05.21 May 11 Atlantic chart, noon today

Lighting-up times

Sun & moon



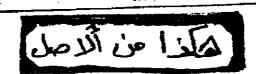
HARTSTON WEATHER WISE

A CONFERENCE is taking place this week in Abidjan in the Ivory Coast called "The First Forum on Seasonal Climate Prediction and its Application to Early Warning Systems for Food Security in West Africa". Its main aim is to coordinate forecasting techniques and assemble and analyse available data to produce a series of models to predict crop yields in the region.

A Reuters report on the first day of the con-ference indicates the potential that already exists to improve matters, but also identifies factors that may frustrate the best-intentioned efforts. On the positive side, delegates have reported how pilot projects in Asia with groundnut farmers could serve as a model for West Africa's cassava growers and may then be expanded to other crops.

Weather models may also help produce more accurate regional forecasts, which can be adapted to farmers' needs. Much historical weather data also exists that has never been collated and analysed. Research has already shown, for example, a link between drought in Somalia and high surface temperatures in the

All this offers hope, but, the big problem is El Niño. In fact, it is two problems in one.
First, nobody can confidently predict when the next El Niño will be along or how big it will be; second, nobody can predict its precise effects. All we know is that once every five or so years, something may happen to wreck a nation's entire crop. Our understanding of weather needs to move forward a long way beforc the ambitions of this conference are ful-



لمكذا عن ألاصل

End of a dynasty as the final Sainsbury checks out





Transformation: The Sainsbury supermarket dynasty in 1969 and (right) the stores' humble origins in Drury Lane in London

By Nigel Cope Associate City Editor

LORD SAINSBURY of Turville, chairman of the Sainsbury's supermarket chain, signalled the end of an era yesterday with the surprise announcement that he is to retire from the business in September. With no other family members left in the company it will be the first time the Sainsbury's family has relinquished control of the su-

permarket empire in its 130-year history. Lord Sainsbury, 58, is one of Britain's richest men with a wealth estimated at over £3bn. He was the sixth family member to run Sainsbury's since its started as a dairy shop in London's Drury Lane in 1869.

A keen supporter and financial backer of Tony Blair's Labour Party, he plans to devote himself to a career as a working peer. He will chair the new University for Industry, a government initiative designed to improve the skills of teenagers who leave school and do not attend further education.

Looking relaxed and cheerful Lord Sainsbury said yesterday: "It is a historic moment and in some ways a sad one. But of course it was also inevitable. Most people expected that there would be a 10-15 year gap after me before the next family

member might have been ready." On his new life in politics, he said: "It has been no secret that there are two things in my life, business and politics. The Blair government represents everything I have always wanted from British politics."

Lord Sainsbury is a recent convert to Labour after a long allegiance to the centre left Social Democrat party, which eventually merged with the Liberals to form the Liberal Democrats.

He announced in 1995 that he would vote for Labour under the leadership of Tony Blair and has written pamphlets for left-wing think tanks the Fabian Society and the Public Policy Centre.

Lord Sainsbury will hand over the running of the business to Dino Adriano, chief executive who has worked for the company for 20 years. Lord Sainsbury's cousin Tim Sainsbury will remain on the board as a nonexecutive director for a couple of years but will then depart too. Lord Sainsbury said the family intend to retain their near-40 per cent shareholding in the business.

Educated at Eton, Cambridge and the University of Columbia in New York, David Sainsbury was groomed to lead the

He joined in 1963 at the age of 23 and spent 17 years as finance director before becoming chairman in 1992. He did not always appear comfortable in the role which some say was more a duty for him than a

His tenure in the top job led to mixed results. During his reign the business expanded further into America and bought Texas Homecare the DIY chain. But the supermarket business lost its way and was overtaken by a resurgent Tesco.

Food for politics, page 22



on his political career. The Blair government 'is everything I have wanted from British politics'

Harrison tells court of Beatles 'junk'

Arts News Editor

THE High Court was warned yesterday against "experts who wallow in Beatle trivia." It was 'junk" said the man giving evidence - former Beatle George

Harrison, 54, donned reading spectacles to pore over large bundles of court documents as he gave evidence to stop an amateur recording of the group made at the beginning of their fame 36 years ago.

"Unlike the experts who wallow in Beatle trivia I spend a lot of time getting the junk out of my mind through meditation so I don't know or remember - I don't want to know or remember - every last detail be- les' early days. He said that cause it was trivial pursuit," he said at one point.

Mr Harrison, Ringo Starr, Sir Paul McCartney and Yoko Ono, who is executrix of John Lennon's will, are asking a High Court judge to ban sales of a CD produced from the recording made at The Star Club in Hamburg in 1962.

In his evidence Mr Harrison told of the "wild early" days which involved "a lot of teenagers getting drunk playing rock'n roll". He said: "That's how it was. It was just a wild thing."

The ex-Beatles and Yoko want the original tape at the centre of the case, or proof that made by Edward Taylor, leader of obscure Sixties band King Size Taylor and The Dominoes, on his own reel-to-reel machine when he was playing a double bill with the Beatles.

Mark Platts Mills QC, representing the Beatles, told Mr Justice Neuberger at the start stitute business deals." of the case that there had been

"various attempts to exploit" the tape by people associated with the defendants. Lineasong Music Ltd. of Waltham Abbey, Essex.

Lingasong is claiming that John Lennon, who was shot dead in 1980, gave his verbal consent to the recording, but the other group members say they did not even know it was being made.

Mr Harrison said that Ted Taylor was not a close friend. "He was a leader of another one of the groups. In those days, everyone was friendly to one another but only saw one another if they happened to play the same club at the same time."

Harrison then went on to talk candidly about The Beat-Lennon was "like the loudest of us" and the eldest - before Ringo joined. "But we had a democratic thing going between us. Everyone in the band had to agree with everything that was done."

Harrison said the record at the centre of the case was the "crummiest" ever made in the group's name. "The only person who allegedly heard anything about it is the one person who is dead, who can't actually come here and say it's a load of rubbish."

He said John Lennon would have said something about the tape if he had known about it: "He never said anything to it has been destroyed. It was anyone. He didn't say anything to Brian Epstein or to Paul Mc-Cartney."

Even if anything had been said between John Lennon and Ted Taylor it did not constitute a business deal: "One drunken nerson recording another bunch of drunks does not con-

The case continues

Rollercoasters can damage your brain, say doctors

By Charles Arthur

Science and Technology Editor

ROLLER-COASTERS can seriously damage your brain, warns a French doctor who has discovered nerve damage in a number of otherwise healthy people, days after they went on high-speed rides.

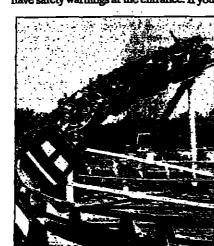
The effects only showed up when people began getting severe beadaches hours later, said Valerie Biousse, a neurology specialist at the Lariboisiere Hospital in Paris. And she warned that the numbers of such cases, although small, was increasing as fairgrounds offer bigger rides and more people go on them.

Even healthy people, she said, should pay attention to the warning signs displayed at the entrances to modern rides, which can generate forces of more than 4g - four times that of gravity - during turns and after steep drops. "When you're on a very fast rollercoaster, for your body it's like doing very hard physical exercise. Your heart rate goes up, and everything is under extra strain," said Dr Biousse.

The damage she observed in patients, who were aged between 20 and 55, ranged from small strokes to minor bleeding in the walls of head arteries. She said that they must have been caused by the abrupt

like a car crash - which can also produce ride." invisible injuries that only become appar-

ent days later. A spokeswoman for Alton Towers, which operates the Oblivion ride - featuring a 60-metre vertical drop that generates 4.5g on riders at its end - said: "All our rides have safety warnings at the entrance. If you



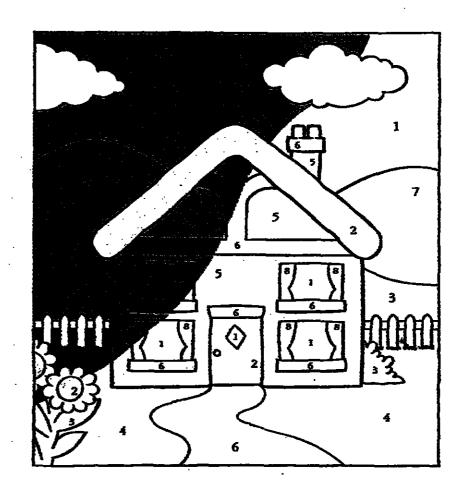
Risky trip: Roller-coasters can cause strokes and bleeding, experts say

changes in acceleration that are typical of suffer from back, neck or heart problems modern roller coasters. The effect is almost or are pregnant, you shouldn't go on the

> But Dr Biousse told New Scientist magazine that the four patients she had exammed included a dance instructor in her thirties, and that half the patients she examined had no underlying diseases that could have contributed to the injuries she observed. "In every published case, the first symptom was an unusual headache. People should see a doctor if they have a beadache a little time after going on a roller

coaster ride." The Health and Safety Executive, which is responsible for licensing roller coasters rides in the UK, said that there is no legal limit on the g forces that a ride can exert: "The onus is on the operator to demonstrate that risks to peoples' health and safety is kept as low as reasonably practicable. That doesn't mean zero risk," said a

Similar problems were detected in 1992 with bungee jumping, when doctors began recording cases in which peoples' eyesight was affected by the force exerted on their eyeballs as the bungee comes tight, at the bottom of the jump. People have also dislocated or shattered their hip bones on YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.



Now arranging a fixed rate mortgage is just as easy.

Simply ring 0800 20 30 49 between 8am and 8pm Monday to Saturday and in just 15 minutes; we'll let you know how much you can borrow and what your monthly payments will be. And that's it. So if you want to plan ahead with confidence, get a fixed rate mortgage with the Halifax. With us, it's as easy as painting by numbers.



'How new men are suffering daddy stress'

By Roger Dobson

New man is suffering a new trauma, daddy stress.

Men may be spending more time with playing with their children, picking them up from school and looking after them when they are sick, but many are keeping their good parenting a secret from the boss and

workmates. While it's acceptable to be apfront about taking time off for running marathons, studying, going to funerals and being in the Territorial Army, admitting to picking up the children from school is still taboo, a national conference on Men as Fathers was told yes-

Instead of telling the truth, many men pretend they are fect their careers." She says

meeting clients or going to conferences, or feeling ill, a pretence that is putting them under increasing stress.

"Men hide their involvement with children much more than women," said Adrienne Burgess, author of Tatherhood Reclaimed' told delegates to the NSPCC conference.

"When they go to collect the children they will say they are going to a meeting, or a conference, or a site visit, and that kind of thing. When they have time off to look after the children they will say they themselves are ill rather than the

"They are devising all sorts of strategies because they fear they will be seen as not being a real man and that it might af-

some men will go to enormous lengths to conceal their involvement. "I interviewed one divorced man who had been picking his daughter up from school at 3.45pm every Wednesday for two years and not even his secretary knew."

Despite the strain of inventing excuses, men are spending much more time with their children, but worry that they are not, delegates to the conference in Cardiff were told. While working women worry about getting away on time to pick up the children, working fathers' principal worzy is about whether they are getting enough time with the children. In the 1970s only 12 per cent of men had such worries com-

But despite the increasing

their children, one in five men are at least initially opposed to the pregnancy of their partner or wife. One contributing factor here, according to Ms Burgess, is that men are not educated early enough. "From the beginning, from

the ante natal services onwards, we need to involve the father. No-one interviews a man whose wife is pregnant, and there is no point at which men are drawn into the process. By bringing them in, you could deal with their fears and anxieties and identify any future problems," she said. The aim of the NSPCC con-

ference, the first of its kind, is to raise awareness about the cultural changes affecting men as fathers and partners.

The anatomy of a very secret coup



Offered services: Military consultant Lieutenant-Colonel Tim Spicer, who objects to the term 'mercenary', with his wife Caroline

Documents reveal British involvement in overthrow of dictator. Fran Abrams and Andrew Buncombe report

"THE PRESENT situation," said the fax, "is that there are about 30,000 troops located at Lungi International Airport poised to attack Freetown at an inspecified date."

The letter, dated 8 July last year, is notable for its matterof-fact style. It signs off: "I thank you very much in your willingness to assist in this our time of need."

The letter, one of several documents obtained by The Independent, reveals a plan to overthrow an African regime by using mercenaries that has led to a HM Customs and Excise investigation and growing embarrassment for the British government, which has been implicated in the plan.

The fax was sent by Momodu Koroma, a member of the exiled Sierra Leone government led by President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, in Conakry, capital of the west African state of Guinea. Conakry was once described as "the Paris of Africa" but is now a city of 500,000 and little charm. Hot, dirty and dusty, with choking exhaust fumes and endless lines of jammed traffic, it is place where as one writer put it - most people spend their time planning how to leave. Which is precisely what Mr Kabbah and his supporters were planning to do: they wanted to go home.

They already had the support of those 30,000 men from the Nigerian-backed Economic Community of West African States (Ecomog). But in addition, out in the bush of Sierra Leone and Guinea were the Kamajors, an ethnic army built up by Mr Kabbah while he was president

The strength of the Kamajors - and the resentment this had created among anti-Kabbah factions - had been one of the factors that led to the coup led by Johnny Paul Koroma (no relation to the minister for presidential affairs) which ousted the president in May 1997. But to return to power, Mr Kabbah would need the support of the Kamajors, and for them to be trained and properly armed. That was why they turned to Lt-Col Tim Spicer, a former British soldier who had served in Bosnia and the Falklands...

The coup was to be funded by Rakesh Saxena, a former Thai banker who was on bail in Canada for an alleged \$88m (£55m) fraud in Thailand. Mr Saxena, had diamond mining interests in Sierra Leone, which were threatened by the instability there. A exchange of faxes with Momodu Koroma shows that he was prepared to put \$1.5m behind the plan to restore Mr Kabbah to power.

Even though he was on bail in Canada, Mr Saxena knew immediately who to turn to in order to convert the idea into a military reality. A phone call to Lt-Col Spicer in London during the weekend of 12/13 July whetted the former Scots Guards officer's appetite. Things had not been going well for Spicer's "military consulting" business which needed a boost.

No sooner had the phone call ended than Lt-Col Spicer was faxing Mr Saxena with details of what he could offer. "We

Mercy mission: US Marines help evacuate more than 500 foreigners who fied Sierra Leone after the 1997 coup country, already have a very good relationship with the government and with Ecomog, and have the resources to implement any project the government decides on in an effective, timely manner with minimum collat-

ties," he wrote. He planned to fly to Conakry on Wednesday 16 July; and for \$60,000 plus \$10,000 in expenses, he would produce a full report on what he could offer. Within two days, the money had been wired to him in London by Samir Patel, Mr Saxena's aide at the Sierra Leone and Guinea-based

eral damage to innocent par-

Jupiter Mining Corporation. Lt-Col Spicer should prepare

'We are certainly able to assist ... any project ... with minimum collateral damage'

his report within a week and should then fly to Canada to see him, Mr Saxena said. He had recently invested in two properties in Sierra Leone and his offer of help was solely motivated by a desire to protect his business interests, he said.

Lt-Col Spicer did as he was asked. Once the deal was agreed, the next step was to find the arms the pro-Kabbah forces needed. The obvious source was Bulgaria, where small arms are cheap and the export controls are lax. It is not known precisely how the weapons were shipped to Guinea, but it is believed they were flown via Nigeria, which is the subject of an UN arms embargo.

The 30 tons of arms were flown to Africa on 21 February, possibly by IBIS Air, Sandline's air support company. It is last year a plane was impound- in every respect," he said.

you are aware we have unique leased after protests from the expertise and knowledge of the Nigerians. It is said that some of the men on board were recognised as known "military consultants" or in common parlance, mercenaries.

Lt-Col Spicer objects strongly to the term "mercenary". His company's publicity material describes its business as "conflict resolution and post-conflict reconstruction." It says the firm would never become involved with illegal arms trading, rebel factions or international organised crime. As well as providing military operations on land and by air, it also operates a former Royal Navy gunboat.

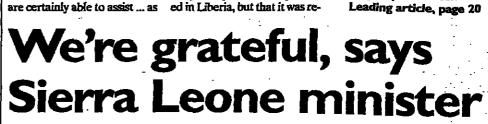
While the Sierra Leone troops were preparing for the counter-coup, the country's government in exile was not idle. Peter Penfold, the British High Commissioner, had become close to President Kabbah and had also met Lt-Col Spicer.

Obtaining support from other countries was not overly difficult. Johany Koroma was a ruthless dictator who in his short time as leader was to be responsible for hundreds of deaths. Britain, Sierra Leone's former colonial power, indicated its support for Mr Kabbah, even inviting him to the Commonwealth leaders' summit in Edinburgh. And, during the early part of this year, as the plan progressed, Lt-Col Spicer discussed the issue with Foreign Office officials in London.

In February, the countercoup was launched. The troops which had been waiting at Lungi airport, just 16 miles from Freetown across the mouth of the Rokel river, were now trained and armed. They restored Mr Kabbah to power, bringing thousands of people on to the streets to greet him as he returned in triumph to Freetown.

He wasted no time in giving thanks where it was due. On the day of his reinstatement, he gave a speech acknowledging Britain's role in helping him back to power. "The British prime minister and his government deserve our special thanks rumoured that some time late for their support and assistance

Leading article, page 20



By Andrew Buncombe

THE Sierra Leone government yesterday said that anyone questioning the role of British officials in returning the elected president to power should be shamed of themselves.

Dr Julius Spencer, the Minister for Information, said he thought people were "missing the point" in the row about possible collusion between For-eign Office officials and Sandline International.

"I would have to say that if the British government and British officials were involved in supplying arms, then the British people should be proud of their government," he told BBC Radio 4's The World At One.

"If they did, they did something that has changed the course of history for the better. The people of Sierra Leone are then they will know what the people here are feeling.

"If people knew how bad life had been under the illegal regime, they would be ashamed people were raising this issue. Even if the law was broken people should be happy that it was broken for a good reason."

Johnny Paul Koroma led the factions which ousted the elected president, Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, in May 1997. In the 10 months before he was ousted in February 1998, experts believe his regime was responsible for hundreds of deaths. Britain never recognised his legitimacy and invited President Kabbah to attend the Commonwealth summit in Edinburgh.

The deal between Sandline was brokered initially through a third party, Rakesh Saxema, immensely grateful. Let the but the contract between the had been committed."

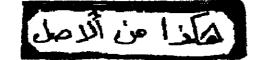
British people, or the Opposition come to Sierra Leone and ra Leone government was signed by President Kabbah, or on his behalf by Solomon Berewa, the country's Solicitor General. The

deal was settled in cash. Yesterday Sandline repeated its claim that it believed it was acting with the approval of "Her Majesty's Government".

Its solicitor, Richard Slowe, said: "President Kabbah's government has at all times been the only internationally recognised lawful government of Sierra Leone and UN Security Council resolution 1132, which imposed sanctions, called for the return of the government.

"Kabbah personally signed the agreement with Sandline for the provision of personnel and military equipment as well as the End User Certificate for that equipment. My clients have been advised that no offence

The Link THE BIGGEST ON THESE CELLNET DIGITAL MOBILES' The largest rarge of communication **IDEAL FOR** faxes, pagers, telephones and **EASY-TO-USE EMERGENCY USE** ADVICE FREE FREE Our expert staff are specially trained HANDS-FREE KIT, IN-CAR CHARGER & CASE WORTH & TOTAL OF \$44.68 HANDS-FREE KIT n all communication products including elinet, One 2 One and Orange network PANASONIC the choice that's right for you. MOTOROLA DIGITAL MOBILE PHONE THE REAL PROPERTY. GUARANTEED Easy-to-use thumb key enables DIGITAL MOBILE PHONE LOWEST PRICES simple menu navigation Can operate on standard 'AA' Up to 210 minutes talktime/ batteries - ideal for emergency use 80 hours standby Filp microphone protects keypad li you find exactly the same package Fax and data compatible Up to 300 minutes taiktime/ cheaper legally within 7 days, we will Available in stylish Blue 90 hours standby 90 name and number memory or Grey finish 127 STORES Model: G450 Model: DT70 in-store Price Was £9.99 **VOLICHER PRICE VOUCHER PRICE** SAVE 50% £4.49* 50% FREEPHONE 0500 222 666 TALK AND DRIVE For your nearest store LATEST SAFELY **TECHNOLOGY** cellnet UP TO 90 MINUTES **VIBRACALL** FREE FREE SILENTLY ALERTS YOU TO INCOMING CALLS **TALKTIME** IN-CAR HOLDER FOR EVERY GAME PLAYED BY PANASONIC NORTEL . ENGLAND OR SCOTLAND DIGITAL MOBILE PHONE IN THE WORLD DIGITAL MOBILE PHONE Voice memo facility – records up to Built-in, hands-free facility 50 seconds of conversation in-car holder and Traffic Line unit for complete in-car solution menu navigation Up to 136 minutes talktime/ Up to 180 minutes 96 hours standby E40 Model: 920 standby Was **£499**9 Model: G600 **COMPLETE 1 YEAR** PACKAGE FOR ONLY INCLUDES 12 MONTHS LINE RENTAL £5 FREE CALLS CONNECTION £125^t EVERY MONTH NOKIA 1611 • FREE SPARE DIGITAL MOBILE PHONE The Link



bile out a new connection to a Calinet Digital monthly tandfooly. Not available on monthly tapprades. Ask in-store for details. "When you connect to Calinet Digital Line Advance, Price refers to Nokia Kin Line Advance package and saving compares to paying abouting 12 x ET/SO + ETS for connection + ES/SY for phone = ETS4,59. Total saving CDTS. Spare bettery subject to ovalidatifity. Ask in-store for details. "When you buy any Motorola Digital Mohile Phone, Ask in-store for details. Connection to motific phones is stablect to status and a ETS cannection log. A deposit may be required. Ask in-store for details.

VOUCHER SPECIALS!

ī. ·

- - - - -

141

. . . . -

1. ...

4-5-

tion : 5 - . . 207 William . No. C.W. Mar. 1 . . . la: . ----

Swanies . Plymour . L: Liverpoc Manchester . "inberzske" -Annuzi mra

By Glenda Coop

SUMMER . Mac War I will and a day of the last of th Sching of the state of the stat down that the . ed manager Phantoling d. Asses comments

Maria de la comparta del comparta de la comparta del comparta de la comparta del la comparta de la comparta del la comparta de la comparta de

Scargill ally to head train drivers' union

By Barrie Clement Labour Editor

THE THREAT of a new era of trade union militancy in the rail industry loomed yesterday after a leading member of Arthur Scargill's Socialist Labour Party won an unexpected victory in the election for the leadership of the train drivers' union.

The party has already secured key posts in RMT the biggest rail union, but yesterday's results marks a considerable extension of its influence.

Dave Rix, a relatively unknown hard-left union official from Leeds, polled 4,558 votes compared with 3,357 for Lew Adams, who has led Aslef for four years.

While Mr Adams was a leftwing pragmatist, Mr Rix, 35, be-rail executive of the union suplongs to a Marxist party which sees industrial conflict rather of winning better working con-

but is considered right-wing by Aslef, the threat of industrial

Next in line for takeover by larger. Mr Scargill's party is the RMT where Bob Crow, the deputy of the SLP. Jimmy Knapp, 58, last general election as a can- Mr Adams with some 30 train-



Surprise win: Dave Rix (left) has ousted Lew Adams (right) to lead train drivers' union Aslef

was 16, joining its Holbeck de-

pot in Leeds as a trainee driver.

two has worked alongside Com-

munists in the union and was

miners during the strike of

as one of the great heroes of the

who will start work next Janu-

ary, also knows the union's rule

satisfaction in the union over re-

The SLP has exploited dis-

The new general secretary,

as a true socialist

book backwards.

have to decide later this year whether or not to run in a fresh election for the leadership of his union. Four out of the 11-strong port Mr Scargill's party.

It is understood that if Mr than negotiation as the means Knapp, also a pragmatic leftwinger, decides to step aside, his 1984-5. He regards Mr Scargill deputy will probably run and Mr Adams is Old Labour stands a strong chance of vic- labour movement and himself and has been a constant thorn tory. With Mr Crow as leader in the side of the Government, of the RMT and Mr Rix at disruption would loom even

Mr Rix is little known outside his local branch of the general secretary, is a member union, although he stood in the structuring schemes signed by the RMT general secretary, will didate for the SLP. He has operating companies. While

Asief members welcomed £20,000-£25,000 salaries, they were unhappy about longer driving periods. Fragmentation of the network since privatisation has led to local officials like Mr Rix achieving greater

Mr Rix has led the left in the union over the last three or four years and with his supporters has made capital out of the decision by the present union leadership to enter a partnership with Richard Branson to form a training company for drivers.

Mr Adams said he was disappointed to lose to an SLP candidate: "Obviously he had a lot of resources behind him for this worked on the railways since he purpose. I am sad that as a consequence, our union will not The Barnsley-born father-ofnow have the same relationship with the Labour government."

Mr Rix indicated vesterday that he would not propose a prominent in supporting the merger of the two unions, but the chances of such an amalgamation would then be much greater. Moderate union leaders would look with considerable trepidation at the spectre of one powerful union for the rail industry under the leadership of the SLP.

> What makes Aslef a potent force is the immediate impact of any industrial action and the virtual impossibility of recruiting staff to replace strikers



Edward Burrowes, 12, the youngest soloist in 'Good and Evil', this summer's BBC Proms season, rehearses with Genevieve Daley and Christopher Good, who plays Elizabethan magician/alchemist Dr John Dee, at the Royal Albert Photograph: Nicola Kurtz

Virgin raises fares in bid to boost train bookings

By Randeep Ramesh Transport Correspondent

RICHARD Branson's Virgin Trains empire is to raise its than four times the rate of inflation this summer.

will affect travellers who use Suused on any day except Fridays but the CrossCountry service reon virgin crosscountry, whose sprawling rail network with more than one in seven visits all of Britain's major trains "officially late". towns, except London.

turn-up-and-go travel through the roof." John Moorhouse, secretary of the Rail Users' added: "We are not pleased with

Today's price

Birmingham - Bristol £23.30

Swansea - York £61.50

*supersaver return

Plymouth - Leeds £74.30

Liverpool - Winchester £51

Manchester - Torquay £58.30

Annual inflation 3.3 per cent

a lot of people who turn up and just want to catch the next train."

The Government is considcheapest walk-on fares by more ability of private train operators return journeys. to introduce higher fares which ministers say will price The 14.5 per cent price hike people off the rail network.

Not only will passengers

"The service is appalling al-Rail campaigners attacked ready. I cannot believe that by hhe move. Jonathan Bray, of raising ticket prices you will atthe Save Our Railways pressure tract more people," said Helen group, said: "Virgin is system- Jones, Labour MP for Waratically putting the cost of rington North, and a regular user of Virgin Trains.

Mr Branson's railway managers disagree. Virgin's policy Consultative Committee, is centred on its belief that private train companies will the company pricing up. It only become a success if they

means more expensive travel for follow an "airline-style" booking system. This means passengers can only get cheap deals if they book ahead - by ering measures to restrict the specifying their outbound and

The company - which is expected to get approval this week to be floated on the Stock Exchange later this year - has even perSaver tickets - which can be face more expensive tickets, cut some the price of some pre-booked journeys. Travellers Birmingham to Bristol pay £21.20 for a return, but in the

summer this drops to £19.50. Brian Barrett, Virgin Trains' chief executive, said yesterday: "This was an experiment we tried out last year and it has worked. Nearly 20 per cent of passengers now book ahead."

Last year, the company increased its cheap walk-on fares from London to Scotland by 15 per cent. Virgin expects that "40 per cent" of its revenue will be enerated by book-ahead tickets in about two years' time. Premium price for a ticket to ride

According to an analysis of the company's fares by transport consultant Barry Doe, the price of an advance ticket has only risen by 2 per cent since 1995 whereas SuperSavers - the cheapest walk-on tickets - have rocketed by 22 per cent.

Despite the book-ahead fares, Mr Doe said that Virgin was putting up its ticket prices faster than any other operator. "Great Western Trains has frozen its pre-booked fares. why couldn't have Virgin?"

The Sixth Spice Girl? Dream on.

Cuts ring changes for mobile phone price war

Social Affairs Correspondent

SUMMER mobile phone price war looked on the cards as Vodafone announced it was stashing off-peak consumer call charges by 50 per cent. "We would be very surprised

if our rivals did not follow suit in some way," said Mike Caldwell, manager of corporate communications for Vodafone. "It's part of the trend of mobiles getting cheaper to use."

But the Telecom Users' Association warned there was a long way to go before consumers will get a good deal from mobiles. Vodafone said that it was

cutting off-peak calls to 5p from 10p from 1 June and tariffs between 7pm and 8am would start from only 2p a minute for those subscribing to

its local call saver option. "It's the first time that you is at a cheaper rate than BT on to individual needs. The com- "consumer responsive".

Around 5 billion minutes are spent on mobile phones every year and the number is growing by 40 per cent. In January the networks revealed record connections in the run-up to Christmas and currently 9 million people own mobile phones.

But the mobile phone industry was criticised as being a "rip-off" for customers two months ago when Oftel announced it was referring it to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission over high prices calling mobiles from landlines. A spokesman for Oftel said yesterday that the MMC inquiry was expected to cover other ar-

A spokeswoman for Orange said yesterday that they welcomed Vodafone's move. "We're actually pleased to see Vodafone following the examples set by Orange over value companies had a long way to go have been able to make a call that for money and services tailored before they could be called

a mobile," added Mr Caldwell. petitive nature of the telecommunications market can only benefit the customer." However she said the company had no plans to change its tariffs as a result of Vodafone's move.

Similarly One2One said that its services offered better value for money and it had no plans to follow Vodafone. "I don't think the mobile phone market has ever been cosy," said a

The other telecom giant, Cellnet, said it was already planning to launch new tariffs on 9 June. "We believe our existing tariff structure is competitive and offers value for money," said a spokesman. "We review our tariffs in order to ensure we remain competitive but there is no immediate plan to do so."

Despite Vodafone's action the Telecom Users' Association said yesterday that telecom

Sally Ann's disability may not hamper her thoughts or dreams, but in reality it movement. And it changes the way others

access to education, and later help with housing and employment

We want disabled children to be given the same scope of apportunity as everyneeded funds to continue this work

We're relying on your help. And that of a few sausages. By holding a fund-raising barbeque you can play a part in these children's futures.

Please phone us on 0500 575 222 for your **SCOPE**





Danger zone: A tropical shark swimming in the Shark Theatre at the opening of the National Marine Aquarium in Plymouth yesterday. The centre also houses endangered seahorses along with an array of fish and marine life

I'm no art world Capone, dealer tells Picasso trial

A PROPERTY dealer who is fair gallery. He denies conspiraccused of helping the celebrated cat burglar Peter Scott to sell a stolen Picasso yesterday denied that he was the "Al Capone" of the art theft world.

Ronald Spring, 70, the chief prosecution witness against his alleged accomplice, rejected suggestions that he had been involved in a string of shady deals including one to steal another Picasso masterpiece.

Mr Scott, 67, whose victims in the 1960s and 1970s included film stars Sophia Loren and Elizabeth Taylor, is accused of trying to set up a deal to offload the abstract work Tête de Femme, valued at £650,000. which was stolen from a Mayacy to handle stolen goods.

Snaresbrook Crown Court in south London was told that Spring, a former legal executive, had been involved in a plot to obtain a Picasso work, Tête de Mousquetaire, by replacing it with a fake in the London saleroom of Christie's.

Under cross-examination yesterday Spring, of Southgate, north London, said: "I just knew what was being suggested could not happen. It was pure fantasy. I just played along for the entertainment to see what would happen, but I knew all along it was impossible."

The court heard the "fantasy" plot to steal the Christie's Piasso had fallen through just two days before the Tête de Femme was stolen from the Lefevre Gailery by a man brandishing a shotgun on 6 March last year.

But Spring strenuously denied suggestions that he had robbery as part of a series of deals involving works worth millions, including stolen paint-Marquess of Bath's Wiltshire stately home.

The court had heard previously that the Tête de Femme sell it to a team of undercover fellow is a rough diamond." detectives posing as crooked art

has "retired" from crime to become a celebrity tennis coach. and lives in Islington, north London, told Spring that he wanted up to £75,000 for the Picasso portrait within seven days, the court was told.

It was alleged that he asked for the cash when he handed the work to his alleged accomplice within bours of the Mayfair rob-

Helen McCormack, for the defence, put it to Spring that he had been the key to the deal after his previous involvement in the art crime world. "The explanation is that you were up to your neck in stealing art for many years, certainly since 1994," she said.

But Spring hit back, saying the Tête de Femme deal, from which he planned to net £25,000, had been the first time he had dabbled in the world of art crime. He told the court: "I" been involved in the 6 March am no Al Capone. This is absolute rubbish."

The court heard that Spring, who had already admitted a ings stolen from Longleat, the charge of conspiring to handle stolen goods arising from the Mayfair robbery, told an undercover police officer, named only as Patrick, that the raider was was recovered only after Spring known to him and had a future had unwittingly set up a deal to in art theft. He said: "This young

Cai

cor

Trial told of a life on the run paid for with violent crime

AN armed bank robber escaped from police and then funded his life on-the-run with a catalogue of violent crime including the theft of a Picasso oil painting, the Old Bailey court was told yesterday.

Russell Grant-McVicar, 33, carried out eight robberies and one attempted robbery - netting more than £100,000 - between June 1993 and May 1997, James Hines, for the prosecution, said.

"They were carried out in a most cowardly fashion, namely by carrying an imitation gun, or pretending to carry a firearm, such as to terrorise innocent change departments and in an art gallery in one robbery." said Mr Hines.

Mr Grant-McVicar, who is defending himself, has denied 16

robbery and firearms offences. In the raid on the gallery in the West End of London last year, he allegedly travelled there by a black London cab and ordered it to wait as be was collecting a painting. He carried a holdall which concealed a double-barrelled shotgun.

The gallery was housing an original Picasso - Tête de

Femme, said the prosecution. The Lefevre gallery specialised in Impressionist and modern painting and was equipped with security cameras and panic alarms. Once inside, Mr Grant-McVicar of the robberies". approached a female member



travelled to raid in a taxi

of staff and asked the price of members of the public, staff in the Picasso, said the prosecuvarious banks and bureau de tion. "When told he said I have got a shotgun. I want that painting'," Mr Hines said.

"She was stunned and said I beg your pardon? He repeated his demand and reached into the charges of robbery, attempted holdall and produced part of the stock of the shotgun. She said 'Please, don't take it out'."

> The prosecution alleged Mr Grant-McVicar told her to take the painting off the wall, but when she said she was not allowed to, he ripped it from the wall himself. As he returned to the cab, he pointed the gun at the driver and told him to go to Berkeley Square - but later diverted to south London.

> After his arrest in Southampton last year, he allegedly gave police "clear, unambiguous and thoroughly detailed accounts

The case continues today.

Butchers 'wiped knives with fingers'

STAFF at John Barr's butcher amination that "sometimes" shop which has been implicated in the world's worst E.coli O'157 outbreak would sometimes use a finger to wipe dry knives after cleaning, an inquiry beard yesterday.

Knives used for cutting raw meat were also used to open bags of cooked meat, admitted James Murray, assistant manager of the shop in Wishaw. Lanarkshire.

Up to 21 elderly people died from November 1996 onwards in Lanarkshire and central Scotland from the outbreak.

Mr Murray's disclosure came on the 13th day of the fatal accident inquiry into the deaths, held in Motherwell, when he was being questioned about practices in the shop.

sink - but he agreed in cross-ex-

staff would then wipe them dry with a finger.

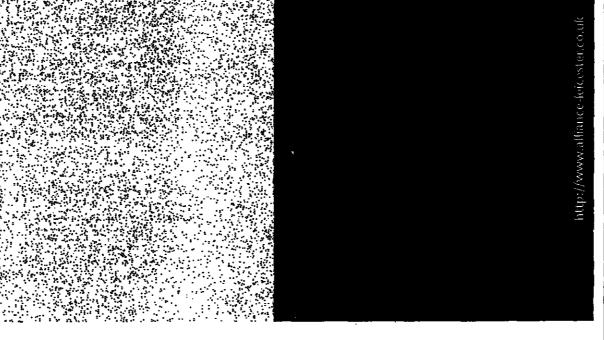
Mr Murray also said that staff would not invariably wash their hands between serving raw and cooked meat. They kept themselves very clean. Whether they did it every time, I could not say that," he said.

But he denied a suggestion from Angus Stewart QC, for health authorities, that the shop had become "an infection superstore".

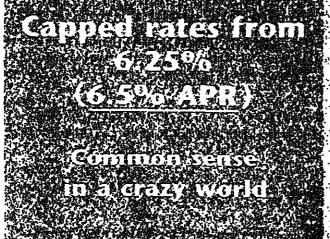
Mr Murray was questioned over the staff's motives for arriving early at the shop on 23 November 1996, ahead of a visit by environmental health officials.

Mr Murray said that John Barr had arranged for managers to go in to put cooked meat Knives were cleaned at the aside for the health officials. The inquiry continues today.





Whichever way interest rates go, with our capped rate mortgage you'll always be smiling.



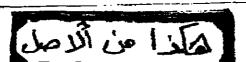


Whatever madness happens to interest rates, an Alliance & Leicester capped rate mortgage makes sense. If our variable mortgage rate goes down your payments go down. But if they go up, your rate won't go above 6.25% (6.5% APR), until 1 July 2002. So whichever way interest rates go, you'll still be happy. For an even bigger smile, if you apply before 30th May 1998 you'll also get £250 Cashback and an Option 1 Valuation refund. For an immediate quote, call the

Alliance & Leicester Quick Quote on 0845 303 3000 quoting reference MPYI1. (Lines are open 9am-9pm Monday to Friday, 10am-6pm weekends).



YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.



of a life on

aid for

nt crime

10.30

-7-

4 b.

Passive smoking claim makes history

Former worker at old folks' home blames polluted atmosphere for onset of asthma in case that could set legal precedent

passive smoking in the first case of come could set a legal precedent. its kind told a court yesterday how she was left breathless and wheezing by the atmosphere in which she was forced to work.

Sylvia Sparrow, aged 60, claims she was left with asthma and severe chest problems after three years of working in the Worsley Lodge elderly people's home in Swinton, Greater Manchester.

Mrs Sparrow told the High Court in Manchester she had worked in an area of the home that at least five residents had adopted as a "smokperiencing a sore throat. By the time bad given notice of her disabilities." I came off my shift I could hardly speak. Going in on a morning I used to feel sick and I didn't know how I would get through the shift. I used go on. The thought of getting through the day was so stressful and I used to experience coughing."

Mrs Sparrow, a State Enrolled Nurse, of Swinton, is claiming an undisclosed amount for injury and loss of earnings from St Andrew's Homes

home is now under new ownership. It is the first time a passive smok-

A NURSE claiming damages over in England and Wales and the out-

Mrs Sparrow's action, being funded by the Royal College of Nursing, alleges that the company failed to provide a safe environment for her to work.

Her counsel, Alan Rawley QC. told Mr Justice Holland: "They room in which she need not have gone. There are smoking rooms in many institutions and non-smoking compartments on railway trains. It is not beyond the wit of man to devise a system which would keep her away

Mr Rawley said that it was a "moot point" whether passive smoking could cause asthma in an adult. But doctors had diagnosed Mrs to battle on, but it got so I couldn't Sparrow as probably predisposed to the disease, which remained symp-

tomless until she was exposed to the

irritant of smoke in her work. Mrs Sparrow worked part time at the home, which had 72 elderly residents, from 1986. Her symptoms started in 1989, when her GP diag-Ltd, which ran Worsley Lodge. The nosed her problems as being caused by tobacco fumes.

Mrs Sparrow said she had asked ing case has come before the courts to be moved from the "green

lounge" area of the home where residents regularly smoked, but after a period elsewhere was told she had to move back there permanently. In February 1992, she was signed off sick for six months and never returned.

Mrs Sparrow agreed that a doctor had later assessed the long-term effects on her health as minor and should have provided a smoking a tribunal had fixed the extent of her disability as 5 per cent.

She denied she had suggested the whole of the home should be made smoke-free or that she had exaggerated the extent of her condition. She had not left to look for anothers' corner". She said: "I started ex- from smoking, particularly once she er job earlier because she liked working at the home, she said.

She said a suggestion that she could have avoided the area where there was smoke was very unfair. "It was my duty to be in that area. I would not leave the patients."

There was constant smoking in the area and two of the residents would have 600 cigarettes each brought in by relatives each month. "Others didn't smoke to that extreme but they did smoke," said Mrs Sparrow. "As soon as they had their breakfast they would light up. They were constantly lighting up. It was their chatting corner and their smoking corner.

The hearing continues today.

Part of DSG Retail Ltd



Sylvia Sparrow: 'As soon as they had finished breakfast they would light up'

Why nicotine is as addictive as heroin

By Charles Arthur Science and Technology Editor

SCIENTISTS reckon they have solved a puzzle about nicotine addiction: why, if it gives the brain less of a buzz than drugs like cocaine or heroin, does it generate comparable withdrawal symptoms?

Now, experiments with rats have shown that nicotine, the active drug in tobacco, depresses the brain's ability to experience pleasure and respond to chemical "rewards".

Researchers from the Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, California, found that rats suddenly deprived of nicotine had to be given much more of a pleasurable reward stimulus to get the same buzz they had before.

Using electrodes implanted in the rats' brains, the researchers measured the levels of "reward" experienced by chemical receptors. Drugs such as cocaine, heroin, alcohol and nicotine all produce their "high" when parts of their molecules latch on to chemical receptors in particular nerves in the brain. Addiction is a reflection of a physical demand by those receptors for more of the chemical. Getting used to the absence of the "high" produced by those molecules is part of the process of withdrawal, and varies in severity for different drugs.

In the experiment, nicotine withdrawal produced a decrease in brain reward function – meaning that for the same stimulation, the nerve centres experienced a smaller buzz. The effects lasted four days, during which the rats showed the classic signs of withdrawal such as anxiety, irritability and craving.

The scientists wrote in the journal Nature: "The decreased function in brain reward systems during nicotine withdrawal is comparable in magnitude and duration to that of other major drugs of abuse and may constitute an important motivational factor that contributes to craving, relapse and continued tobacco consumption in humans."

Camelot's numbers come under scrutiny

THE lottery operator Camelot's books are to come under scrutiny from the Government's spending watchdog, it was announced yesterday. The National Audit Office will be given access to the company's records to ensure the right amount of money is being paid to good

The move was hailed as a step towards "greater transparency and stronger parliamentary accountability" over the lottery.

The Tory MP David Davis. chairman of the Committee of Public Accounts, said yesterday: "People play the lottery volun-) tarily but this does not detract part in the lottery and the good from the need to ensure that it is well regulated and that the money collected is properly ac-

that Parliament's auditors will



lottery is well-regulated'

of lottery activities. Today's announcement is extremely good news both for people who take causes that benefit."

Mr Davis said the need for greater access to Camelot's ac- ing to hide so it's not a problem counts had been flagged up by the NAO in 1996 when auditors al change to our licence half-way warned that they were unable

into the National Lottery Dis-

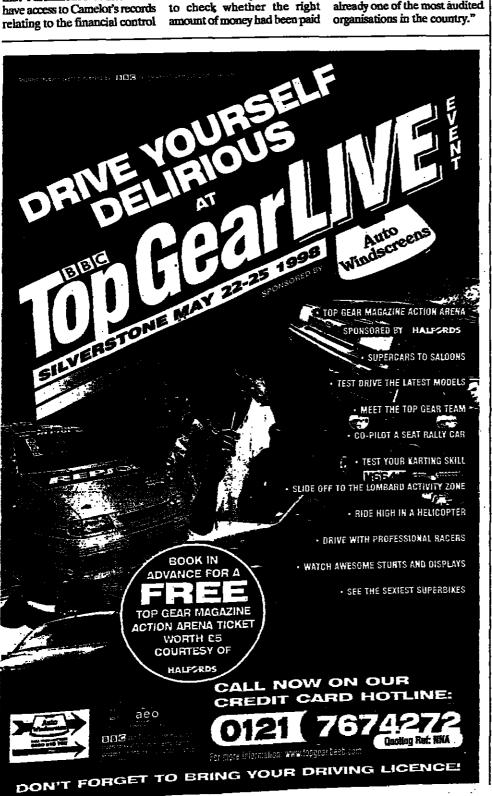
Although payments are monitored by the regulator Oflot, the NAO said Oflot had not carried out 11 of 21 checks designed to ensure the licence was being stuck to, prompting calls for greater accountability.

incorporated into the National Lottery Bill. Camelot - which is a private company - said that although it had no objection to the National Audit Office having access to its accounts, the change meant altering a contract drawn up at the start of the licence term.

Camelot, said: "We have nothfor us, but it's another unilaterthrough the contract. We're already one of the most audited

tribution Fund.

The changes are to be Joanna Manning-Cooper, for





There's a Great Deal going on

THE AA OWNED BY ITS MEMBERS RUN FOR ITS MEMBERS

Our loyalties are not divided.

Our priority is to deliver excellent service to AA members at the roadside.

AA membership subscriptions are used exclusively for our members' benefit – not to pay dividends to shareholders.

The only people who profit from the AA are our members.

RAC Motoring Services is set to be sold. The 12,000 full members of the RAC's exclusive Pall Mall club are in line for windfalls of about £35,000 – each.

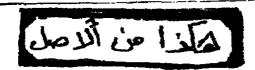
If you're an ordinary member of RAC Motoring Services you appear to be in line for £00,000.

We reckon you need another number.

Talk to us on 0800 225 646.



To our Members we're the 4th Emergency Service



Privacy low on list of complaints over press

Readers more concerned about inacurracy and right to reply

By Paul McCann Media Editor

INFRINGEMENT of privacy by national newspapers is a much smaller worry for the public than inaccuracy despite the call for privacy legislation which followed the death of Diana. Princess of Wales last year.

Only 12 per cent of complaints to the Press Complaints Commission in 1997 were from people who felt their privacy had been invaded. Instead 56 per cent of the complaints were who were concerned about inaccurate reporting or who wanted a right of reply.

Yet privacy issues took up most of the PCC's time last year when it reviewed its privacy code in the wake of the death



Mary Bell: Cheque-book journalism still a concern

of Diana, Princess of Wales. The PCC code now contains a specific right for people to have their privacy respected and it was tightened up to further taken in private places. The new

The PCC undertook the changes to try to head off pressure for statutory limits of the press after public outrage at the perceived role of paparazzi photographers in the death of the Princess. In fact harassment complaints amounted to only

three per cent of the total. The concentration on privacy complaints also means that the PCC has a special privacy commissioner to handle the 368 complaints it received

"The high-profile privacy cases attract a lot of high profile coverage," said Guy Black, director of the PCC yesterday. "But although it is a high profile thing and attracts the public's interest, in fact it doesn't actually happen that often.

"Around 90 per cent of our from members of the public complaints come from ordinary members of the public and the fact is that privacy infringements are mainly concentrated on public figures. The public is much more affected by inaccuracies."

However Mr Black rejected the suggestion that last year's changes to the code were a knee-jerk reaction to the death of the Princess of Wales or that the code is skewed in favour of the famous. "It is not just about the number of complaint," he said. "We have to be responsive to public and parliamentary opinion. For example we only get a tiny number of complaints about payments to criminals by newspapers, but as the Mary Bell case shows it is something the public feel strongly about."

The PCC dealt with 2,944 complaints last year, double the number it received in the early Nineties, but similar to 1996. The vast majority of complaints were resolved by organising a right of reply, a letter limit the use of photographs for publication or a correction. In 82 unresolvable cases the complaints code was even re- PCC conducted an investigation written to specifically guarantee and found for 34 complainants. protection for Prince William In 11 cases it forced newspapers and Prince Harry until they to print the full transcript of its adjudication.

Almost half of all complaints concerned stories written in national newspapers, but regional daily and weekly newspapers accounted for one third of the total. Magazines attracted only 4 per cent of complaints.







Trick of the light: Art-lovers viewing the Masters Of Light exhibition on Dutch painting from Utrecht which opens today at the National Gallery. The show focuses on work from the Golden Age of art which flourished in the Netherlands between 1600 and 1670

Organic farmer on warpath

AN ORGANIC farmer may take legal action to prevent a neighbour planting weedkillerresistant, genetically engineered

maize, it emerged today.

The Soil Association, which certifies food as organic, has said that its concerns about genetic contamination may lead to the environmentally-conscious grower near Totnes, Devon. losing his organic status over the

Friends of the Earth has warned that the case could be "only the first of many" if the Government does not impose a moratorium on genetically-engineered crops. The test site is close to where the organic farmer plans to plant a sweetcorn crop. The two crops could cross-pollinate.

Peter Riley of FoE said "The threat to the livelihood of an organic farmer is yet another example of the dangers of planting genetically modified crops.



FOR A LIMITED PERIOD ONLY TESCO HAVE A WIDE RANGE OF GENUINE RALPH LAUREN CLOTHING: INCLUDING SWEATSHIRTS, JEANS, T SHIRTS, OXFORD SHIRTS, CAPS AND CHINOS. ALL AT FANTASTIC PRICES, BECAUSE Every little helps.

POLO RALPH LAUREN OXFORD SHIRT, POLO JEANS CO. STONEWASH JEANS, POLO JEANS CO. FLAG SWEATSHIRT. PRICE SURVEYS CARRIED OUT 24TH APRIL 1998. AT SELECTED LARGER CLOTHING STORES ONLY, SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY.

THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY O

From high life to low-life: Terry Ramsden, wayward son of the Thatcher generation

lason Bennetto charts the rise and fall of an Essex man who gambled and lost

HE WAS the archetypal Thatcherite success story. The son of a postal worker from Romford, Essex, he rose to become one of the country's richest men and most powerful racehorse

His millionaire lifestyle, built in the early 1980s on trading in Japanese bonds, included the obligatory executive jet, Rolls Royces, homes around the world, and the ownership of a football club.

His gambling record was the envy of every trackside punter - a regular winner both on the racecourse and at the bookies. He was a true Eighties self-made man with his cockney vowels and shoulder length hair.

Yet Terry Ramsden, 46, looked anything but a high-flying, city whizzkid yesterday as he stood in the dock at the Old Bailey. A bankrupt with debts of more than £100m, he was jailed for 21 months for trying to conceal about £300,000 from his

Ramsden's roller-coaster career began in the City at the age of 16 as an insurance clerk. He quickly realised he could make more money by working for himself and set up his own business, making £25,000 in the first month.

But the vehicle for Ramsden's career was an Edinburgh company called Gien International which he bought in 1984, when it had a turnover of £18,000.

By 1987, the figure had risen to £3.5bn and Ramsden was said to be the nation's 57th richest man.

The venture was based on his knowledge of the specialised and volatile market in Japanese warrants. These were options to buy shares in Japanese companies. He gambled on a rising market and got it right. After hitting the jackpot, he was quick to adopt a suitably flamboyant and high-flying lifestyle to go with the new-found wealth.



ed in racehorses - lots of them. At one stage he owned 75. One of his biggest successes on the racecourse was when his horse Not So Silly won the Ayr Gold Cup in 1987.

Small of stature, but invariably accompanied by minder, he was a regular visitor to the winner's enclosure. "Tm a stockbroker from Enfield. I've got long hair and I like a bet," he

Along with his Porsche, Ferraris south-east London, where he could and Rolls Royces, he was interest- relax in a swimming pool with hologram shark fins beamed on to the water, before flying by helicopter to Walsall Football Club, of which he was both owner and chairman.

He lived with his wife, Lisa, and their son, Jake. They also had homes in Scotland, Bermuda and Portugal. But in 1986 the market and Ramsden's luck changed. The 1987 crash knocked hundreds

of millions of pounds off the value He also owned a Georgian man- of his securities. He started to run sion on a luxury estate in Blackheath, out of cash to keep the huge and

complex portfolio of securities afloat and his marriage was on the rocks. Added to this, he was estimated

to have lost £58m at the racetrack there were even stories of him parting with £2m in a single day. Within a year, Glen Internationcrashed, owing £98m, and he

moved to the United States. In September 1991, a warrant for

his arrest was issued on fraud charges and he was detained in a Los Angeles jail until his return to Britain in February 1992.

The next month, Ramsden was

declared bankrupt - with the Inland tion, a Canadian company in which Revenue demanding £21.5m and he had a controlling interest. other creditors bringing the total debt to near £100m.

Ramsden escaped with a two-year suspended sentence in November 1993 after he pleaded guilty to offences of recklessly inducing fresh investment in his empire.

As a bankrupt, Ramsden was required to disclose all his assets and income but failed to reveal the existence of a hidden trust and concealed his ownership of 3 million *shares in the Silversword Corpora-

Thousands of pounds was paid from the trust fund to Ramsden's mother, Florence, a former cleaner, which she passed on to her son. He also failed to mention winnings of £77,000 in 1992, from an accumulator bet involving five horses and

Last year, the Serious Fraud Office announced that Ramsden was to be prosecuted for failing to disclose

Fall from grace: Terry Ram in his heyday (left) as racehorse owner and (above) arriving at court for the trial that ended yesterday with him being jailed for 21 months. His counsel told the judge: Rightly or wrongly, he felt his failure was not his fault but due to the misguided views of others'

failing to disclose about £300,000. It was also revealed that the fund had also helped pay for a £323,800 house for his wife and son.

Jailing Ramsden for 21 months. Judge Peter Beaumont QC also ordered him to pay £10,000 towards prosecution costs.

He told Ramsden: "You broke the law and must now be punished." The judge said he would serve at least half the sentence in prison.

Ramsden, of Fulham, south-west London, pleaded guilty to three charges of breaching the Insolvency Act by failing to disclose all his

Anthony Arlidge QC, for the defence, said: "He was motivated by a desire to win back his wife and restart his family life. He accepts now that is no longer possible."

He added: "He is a man of considerable talent, who for a long time was extremely successful. Rightly or wrongly, he felt his failure was not his fault but due to the misguided

piece@cake

that's how easy it is to get started on the net . all it takes is one phone call to us at demon . perhaps this explains why today we're the uk's number one internet service provider . now you can join us by calling 0800 458 9666 . or scribble your name and address anywhere on this ad, tear it out and send it to us at freepost demon (yes, that's all you have to write). we'll send you a free 30-day trial cd and brochure . that's how simple it is to get started . after that it's even easier.



Demon Internet

more people get on with us

Want to get Dloan at only 12.5% APR?

it's easy. At Phone A Loan our very attractive fixed rate of interest makes it easier for you to budget and plan ahead. For example, with such a low rate you could borrow £5,000 for only £135.13 per month - repoid over 45 months (APR 12.5%) - which means you'll only have to pay 26,215.85. And it won't cost you anything to make a lump sum, or early repayment. With Phone A Loan you decide how much you want to pay, then you can choose either how much you want to borrow (anything up to £15,000), or how long you want to take to pay the loan off ffrom 12 to 60 months). So, if you're over 18 years of age with a good credit history, try us, Call Phone; A Loan Monday to Friday 8.30am to 9.30pm, weekends 9am to 6pm.

> PHONE (A) LOAN Call now 0800 138 68 98

By Glenda Cooper Social Affairs Correspondent

PRE-SCHOOLS run in the community by parents were given a £6.5m lifeline yesterday as David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education, pledged high-quality provision for young children.

The package was announced by Mr Blunkett as playgroup organisers warned that hundreds of groups faced closure.

Last year the Pre-school Learning Alliance recorded 800 playgroup closures, largely because schools are scooping fouryear-olds into their own nursery and reception classes.

A further 400 have closed so far this year and Margaret Lochrie, the PLA's chief executive, claimed that another 1,000 could be lost by the end of 1998.

"This is a waste at a time when more good-quality child care is Government is on the brink of prepared a series of events in Parliament and the presentation of a 150,000 signature petition.

Mr Blunkett, addressing the conference organised by the alliance yesterday, said: "Ensuring that we have high-quality provision for young children is draw up Early Years Developa key government priority. The ment Plans, working in co-

social and intellectual devel- operation with private and opment of children is at the heart of our policies on early education and childcare."

He said that he shared concerns that pre-schools were clos-

than 10,000 extra childcare tion authority partnership with places integrated with early education for young children," he the beneficiaries of this money. They will be able to provide "wraparound" care - care which extends to the whole day. It will

groups - some within primary

"I am also making an extra £500,000 available to help good pre-schools which are in danger of closing ... The funding will give a breathing space to preschools to explore new oppordesperately needed and when the tunities for consolidating and extending their daycare and launching a national childcare early-years education. It will strategy," she said, as the PLA help sustain those high-quality pre-schools at risk of closure." London - including lobbying He added: "We don't expect perpetual patience from you, but we

> do ... intend to get it right." In place of the nursery vouchers' scheme thought up by the Tories, ministers ordered local education authorities to

voluntary providers. That has already created 60,000 nursery places, fulfilling a Labour pledge to provide a nursery place for every four-year-old. But the ing just as plans for expansion PLA says most of the new places of childcare were taking place. are in schools and it remains "We are allocating an extra sceptical, despite ministerial as-£6m which will provide more surances, about local educa-

"The Early Years Partnersaid. "Pre-schools will be among ships are not working as well as they could to deliver resources to the voluntary sector - most four-year-olds are in reception classes - and this is the reason also fund the setting up of new for the closures." said Mrs Lochrie. "The loss of one nursschool sites and school facilities. ery is a waste; the loss of hundreds is carelessness.

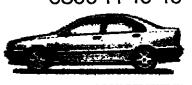


Labour of love: Tony Blair smiling at the four- and five-year-olds from Hurley Pre-school, in Kennington, south London, who came to Downing Street yesterday with a birthday card and cake for the Prime Minister on his 45th birthday



THE NEW

The Volvo S40 now comes with a 1.8i direct petrol injection engine. The fuel is injected straight into the combustion chamber so that it burns more efficiently. You use less fuel and have more torque, for smoother, more powerful driving. And while the engine saves petrol, there are all the usual safety features to save you. The Volvo S40 1.8i (125 bhp) SE, from £17,305 on the road, or from £370 per month via Volvo Contract Hire*. Call for further details or to arrange a test drive, quoting ref: G2.



Dark practices mar song contest image

IT IS the squeaky clean music seriously in this country, the concompetion full of jolly ditties but test which gave rise to hits like this year it seems that a darker "Boom-Bang-A-Bang" and "La and altogether more murky La La" has a huge following in side has developed to the Eu- the rest of Europe and Germany rovision Song Contest, writes has not won since 1982. Kate Watson-Smyth.

Rumours that the Germans are planning to cheat have led to bookmakers William Hill

"We don't believe the competition can be influenced in this for their own country. way but we've taken so much cash for Guildo Horn, the German contestant, that we have to rig the voting. had to cut the odds on six occasions already and may even favourite," said spokesmand Graham Sharpe.

Although not taken entirely

Hundreds of Mr Horn's fans plan to travel to Holland, Belgium and Denmark to vote for slashing the odds of victory for they hope to get around the their entry from 50/1 to 12/1. they hope to get around the rules which allow viewers to phone in for the winner but not

> But a spokeswoman for Eurovision said it was impossible

The entry for Guildo Horn and his band, the Orthopaedic end up with it becoming a clear Stockings is called "Piep, piep, piep, Guildo loves you". On Saturday we will find out whether the rest of Europe loves him back.

INDEPËNDENT

WIN a champagne weekend break at Down Hall Country House Hotel



Take part in our unique competition and you could competition and you could be pampering yourself with a luxurious weekend break at Down Hall Country House Hotel, an elegant Italian style mansion, near Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire.

Set in over 100 acres of beautiful woodland, park and landscaped gardens, Down Hall is a perfect example of quality craftmanship from the Victorian age. With a history just as rich and intricate as the carvings dating back to 1540, this Italian style mansion has recently been refurbished to the highest standards.

Your prize would include two nights luxury accommodation for two in a superior double/twin room, full English breakfasts, candielit dinners in the restaurant, complimentary use of the dinners in the restaurant, complimentary use of the leisure facilities including leisure pool, sauna, whiripool spa, mini-gym, tennis courts and fitness trail plus champagne on arrival.

wkshire Book

To enter this competition simply dial the number-below answer the following question on line and leave your name, address and contact number:

Where Champagne get its name from?

0930 563 442

weekend breaks at Down Hall Country House Hotel Just £52.50 preakfast, dinner and complimentary use of the leisure facilities. This offer is based on two sharing a double/twan room for a until 31st July 1998, subject to availability. To book call Down Hall Country House Hotel on 01279 731441, mentioning independent reader offer.

TONTRACT HRIE MONTHLY RATE EXCLUDES WIT & IS BASED ON 3 YEARS/60,000 MILES WITH MAINTENANCE CONTRACT-FOR BUSINESS USERS ONLY. FULL WRITTEN DETAILS AVAILABLE FROM VOLVO CAR FINANCE LTD, GLOBE PARK, MARLON, BUCKS SLT 1Y2. THE \$40 RANGE FROM LICENCE, AND 225 YEARLE FROM PRICES INCLUDE DELIVERY, 12 MONTHS FOAD FUND LICENCE, AND 225 YEARLE FROM PRICES & PRODUCT INFORMATION CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION WRITE 12 FREEPAST VOLVO OF WITH AMMINISTRACTION FROM PRICES & PRODUCT INFORMATION CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION WRITE 12 FREEPAST VOLVO OF WITH AMMINISTRACTION FROM PRICES & PRODUCT INFORMATION CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION WRITE 12 FREEPAST VOLVO OF WITH AMMINISTRACTION FROM PRODUCT INFORMATION CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION WRITE 12 FREEPAST VOLVO OF WITH AMMINISTRACTION FROM PRICES & PRODUCT INFORMATION CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION WRITE 12 FREEPAST VOLVO OF WITH AMMINISTRACTION FROM PRODUCT INFORMATION CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION WRITE 12 FREEPAST VOLVO OF WITH AMMINISTRACTION FROM PRODUCT INFORMATION CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS.

Blair enters fray in local elections

By Anthony Bevins Political Editor

PRIME MINISTER'S question time was turned into a platform for a local-elections hustings meeting yesterday, when Tony Blair faced a birthday barrage of

Commons point-scoring. Mr Blair, 45 yesterday, was offered a series of soft-ball questions about Labour's firstyear record - allowing him to offer the voters much advice on today's poll for 4.174 councillors in London, shire districts, metropolitan districts and unitary authorities.

No elections are taking place tion in the European constituency of Yorkshire South.

The elections will offer a first have been busy preparing the ground for a low poll.

The main enemy of the Labour Party is not any renewed enthusiasm for the Conservative Party, but complacency among

Labour voters," John Prescott. the Deputy Prime Minister, told an eve-of-poll press conference.

The Prime Minister said on Capital Radio: "It's so important people come out and vote for the mayor in the referendum because if they don't vote for it, people won't get it. It's so important for London that we have a strong political figure able to tackle the issues that affect Londoners. Let's take the chance ... and make London in the millennium one of the great, exciting capi-

tal cities of the world."

In the Commons, David Crausby, Labour MP for Bolton North East, asked Mr Blair in Scotland or in Wales, but the whether he was aware that Tory local elections coincide with a councils across the country had referendum on whether there not passed on £2.5bn meant for should be a London mayor, and education. "How can you ensure assembly, along with a by-elec- in these circumstances that our children all get a first class education?" he said.

Mr Blair told him there was anniversary test of Labour's a clear difference between popularity, and party leaders Labour councils that had been passing the money on to their chools and Tory councils like Essex, "which was given an extra £27m and cut £6m from their education budget".

But Richard Ottaway, a Tory

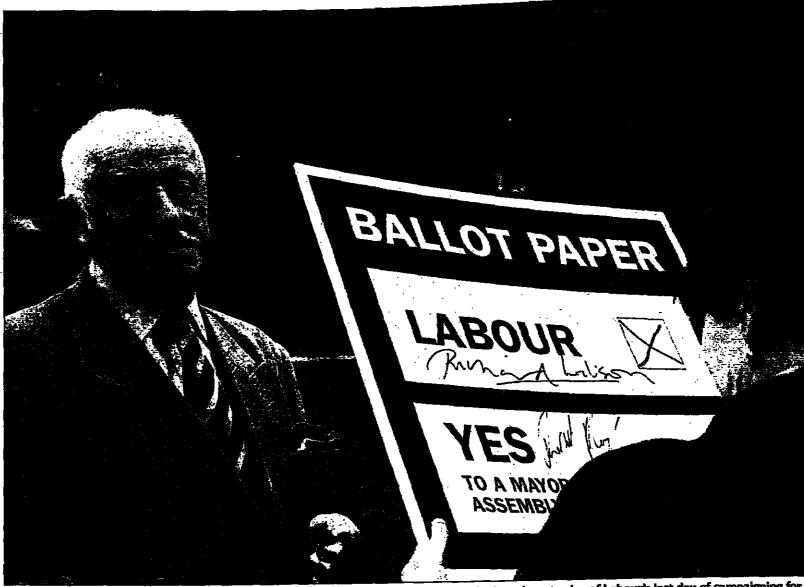
1994, the Labour group on Croydon Council pledged not to increase the council tax for the life of that council. You speak

a lot about partnerships between government and local authorities. Who is to blame for this broken promise - the Labour government or the Labour council?"

The Prime Minister said Labour Croydon had given excellent value for money, even within the spending limits laid down by the previous Tory government and since adopted by the Labour government. Services being provided by

Labour councils were significantly better than the Tories. "That's a matter of fact and another good reason why I hope people will support their council in Croydon tomorrow." Mr Blair also told Derek

Twigg, Labour MP for Halton, that there were 240 seats which the Tories were not contesting, but Lord Parkinson, the Conservative Party chairman, told a press conference the Tories had worked very hard and had a lot of very good candidates. "We expect to make gains," he said.



Supporting role: Richard Wilson, star of the television series One Fooz in the Grove, at the launch yesterday of Labour's last day of campaigning for today's local elections; other attendees included John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister, and Glenda Jackson MP

Major abolished 'Chinese walls' on Tory funding

By Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

JOHN MAJOR could be called to give account to a committee investigating party funding after a former senior party official yesterday disclosed that the former prime minister had abolished the "Chinese walls" between big donors to the Tory party and the party leaders.

Sir Brian Wyldbore-Smith, a former director of Tory party funding, told Lord Neill's Committee on Standards in Public Life that Mr Major was wrong to order the treasurers to report on donations to Chris Patten,

A committee source said Mr Major, who was in Ulster yesterday, could be asked to explain in writing his reason for the decision, after the evidence from Sir Brian.

Sir Brian denied that donations bought influence or houours from the Government. but he disclosed that he turned

down one donation from a foreign source who wanted to influence the choice of the secretary of state for defence.

Asked later whether it was from Saudia Arabia, or a Middie East source, connected with British arms sales, he told reporters: "I can't remember."

He told the committee there was no contact between the fundraising and the prime minister until around 1991 when it was decided by Mr Major that the treasurers Labour Party, involving a row should report to Mr Patten, who over tobacco sponsorship of later became the last Governor Formula One motor racing. of Hong Kong.

asked Sir Brian: "Why was that change made?"

He replied: "The only person who could answer that is the surers targeted expatriates for prime minister at the time. I suspect he didn't want to get also accepted money from forinvolved himself."

Professor King said: "That meant that your Chinese wall Sir Brian said: "It col-

lapsed." Sir Brian said he thought it was wrong that the treasurers should be asked to report to the chairman of the party to give details on fundraising.

"I did write to the senior treasurer [of the party] to say that I thought it was a great error.'

He said the circumstances surrounding the donation by Bernie Ecclestone of £1m to the was "unfortunate - that is why Professor Anthony King, a treasurers should not have conwhen of the committee tact with the politicians: they could not influence in the same

> He said the Tory party treadonations from abroad, but eign businessmen who had business interests or votes in this country. They included businessmen in Hong Kong.

War between parties in Lords escalates

By Colin Brown

THE Government yesterday threatened the use of the Parliament Act to demolish the threat by Tory peers to use the House of Lords to block measures in the next Queen's Speech.

The growing hostility between the Government and the Opposition in the Lords shows that a complete breakdown is near in the Government's attempts to win cross-party support for its reforms to the Lords, which could lead to a constitutional clash between MPs and the Lords. Viscount Cranborne, the

Tory leader in the Lords, provoked a full-scale war of words when he threatened to use a Tory majority in the Lords to block government bills in protest at ministers' handling of Lords reform.

Lord Cranborne said ministers should "come clean" about their plans, which include, as a first step, removing the right of hereditary peers to sit and vote in the Lords.

Lord Richard, the Leader of the Lords, hit back yesterday by warning that the Government would use its ultimate deterrent to force the Queen's Speech through the Lords, if the Tories try to block it.

Lord Richard told a news conference at Westminster yesterday: "If the Tories are going to pretend we have not got a mandate for this reform, they are wrong. They can stop the Bill in the Lords.

"If the Tories want to play



Lord Cranborne: Ministers should 'come clean'

their games they can wreck the Bill sufficiently by amendments to make it unrecognisable, then, in that case, we will use the Parliament Act. The Tories should not forget that.

"The idea we are going to be pushed away from this reform by such threats is ludicrous," he House of Lords with 1,000

versus the people row seems frankly ludicrous. The truth of the matter is that the Conservative Party have been playing with this issue since we started trying to get a consensus for it. This is the latest stage in their games ploy."

Lord Richard made clear his

disdain for what he called Lord Cranborne's "blast" yesterday.

He said it was like "sabre-

rattling with a somewhat rusty

1999 we are going to have an-

other Tory hereditary peers

"The idea that in 1998 and

sword.

Lord Richard said the Tories were divided and could not make up their minds about the future of the hereditary peerage.

"Are the Opposition really saying they are going to wreck the whole of the Government's programme next year in order to protect the hereditary principle and their hereditary votes in the Lords? I find that very difficult to believe."

Lord Richard promised he had no plans to swamp the

Low cost quality health insurance

Bring the World Cup back home. for only 126-23 per week you can waich our boys take on the rest of the world on a brand new, state-of-the-art Philips 66cm Nicam Steres Widescreen W. You're guaranteed the best seat in the house. Free Replica GRANADA Football Shirt Call 0800 16 16 15 or visit your local shop.

Starburst 'on edge of time' stuns scientists

By Charles Arthur Science and Technology Editor

EVEN seasoned astronomers briefly, as bright as the entire universe - and constituted the most powerful explosion since

Any living thing in the same galaxy may have been killed outright. Fortunately for us, the explosion occurred almost at the edge of time, in a galaxy 12 billion light years away.

burst of gamma rays was emit- Cambridge University, said ted by some stellar event - gamma-ray bursts were thought which is still not understood - to occur only once every 100 milthat released as much energy as hon years in a galaxy such as ours. our entire galaxy, the Milky Way, puts out in 200 years.

one of the team of scientists the result could be apocalyptic. from the California Institute of The intense radiation would not Technology (Caltech) in Pasade- be detected until it reached us, na who made the discovery, and then it would be too late. said: "The energy released ... staggers the imagination."

Professor George Djorgovski, another member of the team, which today announces its discovery in the science journal Nature, said: "For about one or two seconds, this burst was as luminous as all the rest of the entire universe."

Gamma-ray bursts are mysterious flashes of high-energy radiation that appear at random and typically last only a few seconds. They are not visible to the human eye, but can be detected by radio telescopes.

No one knows what causes them, but astronomers generally agree they must be connected with the death of very massive, short-lived stars such as "neutron" stars. One theory being suggested for this latest faint galaxy at its location.

event is the collision of two neutron stars - which are enormously dense, dead stars which are not quite large enough to have been stunned by the discovery of a starburst that was, Neutron stars are so dense that a spoonful of material from one would weigh 100 million tonnes. Black holes are points of infithe moment of creation in the nite density from which nothing

All gamma-ray bursts are immensely powerful, but none of the several thousand detected so far come close to the one described in Nature.

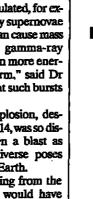
A British expert on gamma-Over just a few seconds, a ray bursts, Dr Ralph Wijers, from However, if one did occur

within even a reasonable as-Professor Shrinivas Kulkarni, tronomical distance from Earth, "People have speculated, for example, that nearby supernovae [exploding stars] can cause mass extinction, and gamma-ray bursts put out even more energy in a similar form," said Dr Wijers, adding that such bursts were "very rare".

Luckily the explosion, designated GRB 971214, was so distant that not even a blast as bright as the universe poses any threat to the Earth.

The light arriving from the gamma-ray burst would have started its journey when the universe, thought to be about 14 billion years old, was in its infancy.

GRB 971214 was first detected last December, by two orbiting satellites. As the afterglow from the burst faded, the Caltech team detected an extremely



Protect and survive Environment minister Michael Meacher yesterday holding a noctule bat, which is native to Britain, to launch National Bat Week, organised by the **Bat Conservation Trust.** The week, which runs from 9 to 17 May, aims to raise awarenes about bats, including the Il British species which are vulnerable or rare. Events include a bat count across the

> Photograph: Kalpesh Lathigra

It's surprising what you can save at your local supermarket.



Jade was found in a supermarket skip. Left among the rotting food and discarded

That she was found at all was a small miracle.

bits of old packaging.

Half buried among the rubbish, she barely had the resources to move or make a sound.

Unable to stand on her feet unaided, she twitched involuntarily. She was badly malnourished, suffered from mange and had open wounds all over her body.

Taken into care by the Thomberry Pet Rescue Team, it was found she had also contracted distemper. A pitiful sight and dreadfully underweight for a Lurcher.

But recover she did and now lives happily in Norfolk. The only problem is she insists on sleeping on her new owners Chippendale.

eam for a further

ight months.

Every day, unspeakable acts of abuse are committed against dogs in Britain.

And when such cruelty comes to light, it is often the local volunteer run rescue centres that tirelessly take on these poor mistreated animals.

It is they who nurse the animals back to health. It is they who find the pets homes where they will be cared for at last.

But it all takes money. Without income, a local rescue centre can't operate.

And without these centres, many pets

like Jade would end up being put down.

That's why every year IFAW puts hundreds of thousands of pounds into supporting them, on a worldwide basis, through our Pet Rescue scheme.

We are determined to fight animal cruelty all over the world. And that includes abuses in our own backyards.

You can help us in this fight, by donating as much as you can afford to help Jade and thousands of animals like her.

And help prove Britain is still a nation of
animal lovers.
save unwanted pets like Jade and fight cruelty to animals world-wide. Here is my donation of £
Signature Name (Block caps please)
Send to International Fund for Animal Welfare, Freepost TN 1454, Crowborough, TN6 2BR.

tients are to be recruited to investigate the effect of a new

Angina study may

aid heart patients

drug that mimics the chemical effect of pain on the heart. The study, co-ordinated by the University of Glasgow, will include up to 100 hospital cardiology units and is expected to take three years. Patients will

lives of heart attack victims,

In the largest research study

writes Jeremy Laurance.

receive treatment for an average of 21 months. The heart is known to initiate a protective response when

restricted and not enough oxy-

SCIENTISTS are to investigate gen is reaching the muscle, how chest pain may save the causing angina. Known as pre-conditioning,

this natural response reduces the damage caused by further of angina (chest pain), 5,000 pa- or more serious bouts of oxygen deprivation.

Scientists believe that it may explain why heart attack patients with a history of angina suffer less tissue damage and have a better chance of recovery than patients with no history of angina.

In the study, Nicorandil, the first of a new class of anti-angina drugs introduced to the United Kingdom four years ago, will be given to half the the blood supply to it is patients, in addition to their usnal drug treatment for angina.

DAILY POEM

On a Card from Christopher Smart to **Dr Nares**

By Christopher Smart (1722-1771)

Smart sends his compliments & prayrs Health & long life to Dr Nares but the chief business of the card Is "come to dinner with the bard," Who makes a mod rate share of wit Put on the pot, and turn the spit. Tis said the Indians teach their sons The use of bows instead of guns, And, ere the striplings dare to dine, They shoot their victuals off a pine. The Public is as kind to me As to his child a Cherokee, And if I chance to hit my aim, I chuse to feast upon the game; For panegyric or abuse Shall make the quill procure the goose, With apple-sauce and Durham mustard And codling pye o'er-laid with custard. Pray please to signify with this My love to Madam, Bob, & Miss, Likewise to nurse and little Poll, Whose praise so justly you extoll, I have (don't think it a chimæra)

Some good sound port and right Madeira.

Our poems today and tomorrow come from Pembroke Poets, edited by Robert Macfarlane and David Quentin. This anthology, published to mark the 650th anniversary of Pembroke College, Cambridge, consists of work by poets who have been members of the college, from Edmund Spenser and Thomas Gray to Ted Hughes and Clive James.

IFAW. Fighting against cruelty to animals throughout the world.

unding

Is there really a famine in Sudan?

Not yet, claim British aid agencies who say the problem is over access not money,

writes Jeremy Laurance

THERE IS no famine in southern Sudan. British aid agencies say there is a "food crisis" and some people are starving but they fear that a major appeal launched now could undermine efforts to raise money when a real famine arrives, possibly in a

A famine is defined as a shortage of food so serious that people are driven from their homes in a mass migration, as occurred in Ethiopia in 1984. Southern Sudan has suffered years of civil war and a current drought which has reduced people to scavenging for wild foods and leaves but it has not yet led them to leave their homes and support networks

A consortium of 15 aid agencies known as the Disasters Emergency Committee agreed at a meeting two weeks ago not to launch an appeal in Britain. There was enough food and resources available for transport into Sudan and the problem was one of access, not money, they said.

The committee, which includes Save the Children, Oxfam and the Red Cross, ratified the decision again on Monday but said they would keep it under review. However, Christian Aid has launched its own appeal for £1m provoking dissent among the aid agencies.



The agencies have been caught unprepared because of the unexpected intensity of media interest in the situation. The BBC filed the first report seen in Britain early last month, but ITN later obtained more shocking pictures of emaciated children which were shown twice on News at Ten last week and again last

The BBC responded to what is now seen as a developing international story by dispatching extra definitions of what is going on." teams to the area including the renowned reporter, Fergal Keane.

Mark Bowden, regional director of Save the Children for East Africa, said: "There are places of acute need



all over southern Sudan but that ernments and donor agencies and money would be spent. "Personally doesn't mean the problems are all re- the Sudanese government had in- I think it is irresponsible to appeal lated. There is a lack of clarity. The creased the number of flights allowed media are getting into quite broad into the area from one to four. "That is just about enough," he said.

The worst affected area was El Mr Bowden said it was essential Ghazal, where 350,000 people were members of the public were acuteon the brink of starvation. Howevly informed so that they could be coner, thousands of tons of food and fident when an appeal came that they other aid had been promised by gov- knew what it was for and how the

to the public at a time when we are still trying to define the problem."

A famine meant setting up feeding centres and relief shelters and could make a fragile situation worse by encouraging people to leave their

appropriate in Sudan where the priority was to stabilise the situation which would take at least 10 months and require sustained support.

A spokeswoman for Christian Aid another appeal had to be launched. said its officials were working in a separate area, closer to the Ugandan border and accessible by road, where homes and migrate to the feeding food could be trucked in. She said

famine, but vulnerable people were dying. She dismissed suggestions that "famine fatigue" might set in if the situation worsened next year and

"That is something talked about . But why wait till there is a famine? We want to do something now to prevent it happening. Do we want to see centres to obtain food. This was not the charity had not used the term people dying? I don't think we do."



Victims of the crisis: A Sudanese woman holds her severely malnourished child as she waits for help within a feeding centre in Ajiep run by the French charity Medicins Sans Frontiers. The UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, has welcomed the Sudanese government's decision to allow more aid flights into the area.

Photograph: Reuters

40% OFF

plus 20% OFF ALL APPLIANCES MUST END SATURDAY 5PM[†]



(plus £250 WORTH OF FREE HOLIDAY VOUCHERS")

At Magnet every single kitchen is designed not only to look stunningly beautiful, it's built to take everything life can throw at it. And right now there's a fantastic 40% off* most Magnet kitchen and bedroom cabiners, plus 20% off all appliances,' we'll even give you £250 worth of holiday vouchers absolutely free. There are some great offers on many and Whitehood appliances too. Simply call in at your local Magnet showroom and find out why all Magnet products are designed for living and built for life. Your life. With over 200 stores nationwide there's bound to be a Magnet showroom near you. Telephone 0800 192 192 for details of your nearest store. Remember to quote code IND32.

Magnet

Designed for living BUILT FOR LIFE

Germans protest over British charity's postcard campaign

By Louise Jury

BRITISH charity campaigners have been called to a meeting today by Germany's finance minister who has been upset by much as the amount cancelled a postcard campaign criticising its attitude to Third World debt.

More than 15,000 postcards German finance ministry in

The rattled Germans bave offensive which contrasts its own cancellation of debts with

sue today. Dr Jurgen Stark, secretary of state for finance, said: "Over the past few years, the amount of debt cancelled by Germany was five times as by the United Kingdom."

Christian Aid launched the postcard campaign earlier this from Christian Aid supporters year criticising Germany's "re- He said the Christian Aid camdemanding greater support for luctance to support measures paign missed the point by dedebt relief have arrived at the that would provide sustainable manding more rapid debt relief. debt relief for the poorest countries in the world".

The charity argues that Gerresponded with an information many would not have recovered from the Second World War if this country or that country charity officials to discuss the is- Third World nations to pay.

Germany is one of the countries aid agencies regard as particularly obstructive with regards to debt re-scheduling.

But Dr Stark has claimed the "obvious misperception" current among non-governmental organisations in the UK is "in flagrant contrast with the facts".

A source at the charity said missing the point. Our basic criticism is not over which crumbs it had been forced to service the has given, but that the existing Britain's. They have also asked kind of sums it now expects deal for debted countries is

Colombian innocents sacrificed in drug war

By Phil Davison

Latin America Correspondent THERE were 200 of them, a

small army, faces blackened, armed to the teeth and dressed in camouflage fatigues. Like the Colombian army's Special Forces, they wore Rambo-style headbands but the villagers of Puerto Alvira, in south-east Colombia, knew immediately they were not regular soldiers.

In a three-hour rampage, the gunmen pulled out a list, picked out a group of peasants and killed at least 21, shooting them in the back of the head, dumping some bodies into the Guaviare River, soaking others with petrol before setting fire to them. The body of one fouryear-old girl was left in the village square, apparently as a warning to her family and the rest of the village.

As they drove off in a convoy of military-style lorries, the gunmen warned villagers to leave Puerto Alvira within a week or they would return. They immediately packed up and started pulling out.

The gunmen were members of one of Colombia's growing right-wing paramilitary groups, set up by wealthy landowners and businessmen and often backed by the state armed forces. They had apparently decided to teach a lesson to viliagers accused of aiding the Marxist guerrillas who control much of the surrounding

Monday's massacre is one of it reinforced the belief of many

Colombians that the country is while Marxist guerrillas killed 47 now in the throes of a civil war army soldiers and 166 civilians. in which civilians – split between support for the guerrillas or the paramilitaries – are increasingthe victims. President Ernesto Samper, who can claim to control only a fraction of his coun-

try, prefers to call it a "dirty war". It seems that the paramilitary group timed the latest massacre while the Colombian army was



The head of the US Southern Command, General Charles Wilhelm, was visiting military bases in south-east Colombia at the time, to study progress in eradicating narcotics production and trafficking.

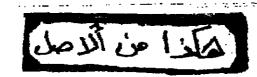
A recent report by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson, spoke of widespread terror among the civilian population in the face of selected executions and massacres ... carried out by paramilitary groups". The paramilitaries massacred more than dozens over the past year, and 3,300 people during the first nine months of last year, it said,

If the conflict started over ideology, it is now as much about money, and in the plains of south-east Colombia, money is about coca leaf, and ultimately cocaine.

The 12,000 Marxist fighters of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and 5,000 guerrillas of the National Liberation Army (ELN) have increasingly been financing their operations through kidnap ransoms, "war taxes" protection money - or deals with druglords to protect coca fields from a government eradication campaign.

When the armed forces made little headway against the guerrillas, the paramilitaries sprang up in the Eighties to protect landowners from extortion. They are now thought to number around 2,000. Few Colombians doubt they receive protection and often logistics support from the military.

The man believed to head the paramilitaries, a wealthy northern landowner, Carlos Castano, is described by US officials as a major narcotics trafficker. President Samper has put a £500,000 price on his head. Lima (AP) - Thirteen survivors were found yesterday by rescue workers searching dense jungles for a charter flight that crashed in northern Peru with 87 people aboard. The Boeing 737, chartered by Occidental Petroleum to fly workers to the Andoas oil field, crashed 625 miles north of Lima on Thesday.



By Patrick Cockburn in jerusalem

THE Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, said yesterday that he may not go to Washington for a summit next week, if attendance is conditional on Israel accepting American terms for an Israeli withdrawal

from the West Bank. "Am I obligated to accept every invitation on any condition?", he asked an interview-

er from Israeli anny radio. "I am 11 May. A final decision will be ready to go, that's not the problem. But if they tell me to go and accept certain conditions unacceptable to us? We are a sov-

ereign country." Mr Netanyahu left the question banging in the air, but the implication is that he will not endorse the United States plan for Israel to withdraw from 13 per cent of the West Bank as the price for attending a summit with President Bill Clinton on

taken at a meeting of the Israeli cabinet next Sunday.

Since he became prime minister in 1996, Mr Netanyahu's strategy has been to avoid confrontation with the US by showing willingness to talk endlessly. but not to agree about anything. At the same time he has succceded in so watering down the Oslo accords that they bear little resemblance to their origi-

At the end of the meeting in London a source in Mr Netanvahu's office was quoted as saying: "The talks here have proven that the Prime Minister's strategic objective was attained. The Oslo process has come to

"Instead of transferring most of the territory of Judea and Samaria [West Bank] to the Palestinians within a year and a half, we're in a position where most of the territory will be in

our hands prior to the final status talks."

Mr Netanyahu can count on support from the US Congress where 81 Senators signed a letter last month calling on President Clinton not to put pressure on Israel. At the same time the repeated failure by the US to get Israel to fulfil the terms of the Oslo accords is damaging America's standing in the region.

Mr Netanyahu can probably get cabinet support for with- Ateret Cohanim (Crown of the

drawal if he tries. American officials were reportedly astonished that he came to London without authority from his cabmet to carry out further redeployment on the West Bank.

A sign of growing friction between Israel and the Palestinians came early yesterday morning when a 28-year-old Jewish seminary student was stabbed to death in the Old City of Jerusalem. He belonged to the

takes over Palestinian-owned houses in the city. He was killed as he walked to the Wailing Wall down the Via Dolorosa in the early hours of the morning. He carried a gun and fired one shot before collapsing. Later a Palestinian was reported to have tried to kill a soldier in Hebron. the town south of Jerusalem partitioned between Israel and the

Palestinians last year. A measure of the lack of interest in Israel over the London meeting is that television devoted more time to a report by the State Comptroller about the money extracted from the state by the ultra-Orthodox through their political clout. This causes great resentment among secular Jews, who feel discriminated against, particularly in the allocation of public housing. The report says: "In practice building was done only for the ultraorthodox sector."

Lessons of Paris '68 forgotten by universities

By John Lichfield

IN MAY 1968, French universities were overcrowded, bureaucratic, unimaginative, unambitious and treated their students like children. For these, and other less tangible, less personal reasons, students revolted and almost brought down the French

In May 1998, the French government has been presented with a students. "My lectures on Italian cindamning report which states, in ema are typical; they last for three effect, that French universities are over-crowded, bureaucratic, unimaginative, unambitious and treat their students like children.

Few French commentators have dwelt on the irony of the timing of the report, drawn up by a committee headed by Jacques Attali, former adviser to President François Mitterrand. There has been a rich flora of books and articles studying the legacy of the May '68 revolution. But only one article - in the news magazine Marianne - has dwelt at length on the paradoxical, and generally malign, effect of the rebellion on French universities, where the revolt began.

ver British

ampaign

10cents

One of the many slogans of May 1968 was "Sélection, piège à cons" - "Selection is a trap for idiots". The educational reforms, and fashions, which followed were heavily influenced by this viewpoint. The baccalaureate, the equivalent of A-levels, which confers an automatic right to enter higher education, was simplified. The proportion of young people entering colleges of some kind exploded (it is now more

The fastest PC from Time includes the latest Intel

Numbers receive and video Carrera

 ATX inver system with all standard teatures • Intel 4406X AGPublicati with 100MHz bus

14 Day money back guarantee (excluding curi

4 toks September 97 Luius WinsPo

than 40 per cent, of whom more than one-third fail in the first year).

In the 1970s, many French universities offered unchallenging courses in which everyone was guaranteed to succeed. But much of French higher education remains plodding and fact-oriented.

Lucy Reid, a British undergraduate studying at the Sorbonne in Paris, is startled by the low standard offered by lecturers and accepted by

Danny the Red takes it on the chin

Young people these days have no

respect for anything, writes John Lichfield. Daniel "Danny the Red" Cohn-Bendit, leader of the May 1968 student's revolt, had two custard pies thrown in his face when he returned to his alma mater, the University of Nanterre, this week. Mr Cohn-Bendit, 53, now a German Green Euro MP, was "entarté" by a group of anarcho-syndicalist students who objected to his "betrayal of the cause" - his abandonment of revolutionary socialism for European federalism and environmentalism. "In our view, he is not the living witness of May 68 but its corpse," said one of the men involved. Mr Cohn-Bendit chatted with his assallants before attending a seminar

on the 1968 revolt.

hours and consist of lists of films, facts and dates. Everyone writes down everything the lecturer says. There is no analysis or questioning."

Paradoxically, the post-1968 dilution of French "université ordinaires" also led to a reinforcement of educational selection and élitism. More than ever, the "Grandes Ecoles", the network of state-run, top-class, specialist, colleges, siphon off the best students, often from the wealthier families. The Grandes Ecoles take 4 per cent of the students and 30 per cent of the state budget for higher education.

At the apex of the system is the Ecole Nationale d'Administration, which takes the best students from the other Grandes Ecoles. Students who come near to the top of the class in ENA are catapulted into the commanding heights of French politics, administration and business. Many students who graduate from the runof-the-mill universities - four out of 10 never do - find themselves with few practical skills and a "diplome" which is little respected by employers.

The disparities have been increased in the past three decades, one egalitarian revolt compounding the contrary results of another. Mr Attali is himself a product of the system: he was a "pupil" at ENA while Paris burnt in 1968. His report proposes reforms intended to boost the quality of the bread-and-butter universities and close the gap with the Grandes Ecoles. Unless something is done, the report says, France is the slope of irreversible decline".



An aerial view of the village of Sarno, near Salerno, yesterday, following mudslides and floodings after six day of non-stop rain in southern Italy. Environmentalists blamed bad land management for the deaths of 17 people who were swept away when torrents of mud coursed through villages in the Campania region, writes Anne Hanley. Rescue services said dozens doomed "to slip little by little down | more people were still missing in the

sludge which engulfed towns along the valley of the river Sarno.

"This disaster was totally predictable," said Alberto Fiorillo, a spokesman for the Legambiente environmental group who said tree-clearing and scrub-burning for building or pasture purposes had led to massive erosion in the Samo valley, and throughout the Campania region. "Italy spends huge amounts of money patching

things up after disasters, but hardly any on prevention, and the little that is spent is spent badly: more often than not, it

makes matters worse," he added. Over 1,000 people were left homeless in this week's flooding which occurred during what the Italian air force's meteorological department described as "persistent but not exceptional" rain. Photograph: Ciro Fusco/EPA

It's **Ime** for the Fastest PC

400MHz with 128Mb & Windows '98!

400Mhz Pentlum II processor, a massive 128Mb high added extras such as free PC-TV system, Videophone speed SDRAM, Ultra fast 8.4 hard disk and Windows '98 at just £1599 +VAT. performance in the UK. Buy now with INTEREST FREE CREDIT and pay NOTHING until 1999, not even a deposit on the best 400-2Win98PC" • 1250(b test SDRAM (100MFtz bus) • 8.462 UgraDHA-35 hard disk 4 32x Max CD-ROM difes S12% pipeline burst sache Auto ATT AGP x2 Rage Pro 30 graphics -the fastest • 30 PCI 64 crystal bandware was 15° SV&A colour screen (17° optional व्यंत्र) • ISM SS GOLD speach recognition

minn safe and fally Year 2000 comp

Pay Nothing **Until 1999**

INTEREST FREE CREDIT

Take a closer look at the specification which includes 400MHz Pentium* ii The fastest intel 400MHz Penthum" Il processor is ncioded together with intel's latest 100MHz bus

8.4Gb Hard Disk

128Mb RAM speed further Increases performance plicosing this system to leave 64Mb 400Mbz

VideoPhone

Speech Recognition

IBM Gold speech recognition on all models allows you to talk to your PC, compand many functions and dictate winnels. 記封 PC-TV System

86, swopum EEUE

PAY NOTHING UNTIL 1999



Win98 PC™ 'S' Models

These include 5 top games (PRP £145), joystick, headest microphone and over 13 CD multimedia titles for just £39+VAT = £118.33 inc. VAT Bases Nu Jasa - Contraval & Conques Ganta - Josephik & Marcophone - Contraval & Conques Ganta - GRA 97 Ganta - GRA 97 Ganta - Indopedia UK Encyclopedia - GGSE Madre - Theme Hospi - Ganta - GAS burst - Theme Hospi - Ganta - GAS burst - Theme Hospi - Ganta - GAS burst - Margic Car

NO Deposit Free Credit NO Payments **NO Interest**

COMPUTER SYSTEMS

Offers extended to 13th May

Midland Bank old is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and only advises on its own life assurance, pensions and unit trusts, CG/55







Liver

Heart

Brain

Insurance for serious illness is now as easy and cheap as household insurance.



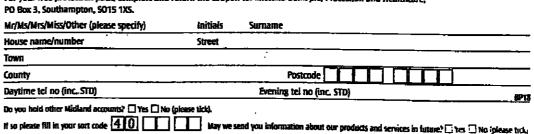
Cali 0800 783 2299

The world of serious illness insurance can be confusing. That's why Midland has set out to make insuring yourself as straightforward as insuring your car or home. It can cost as little as £10 a month to provide the average family with a lump sum and policies are designed to pay out within 28 days of being diagnosed seriously ill. Midland's free pack will give you all the details.



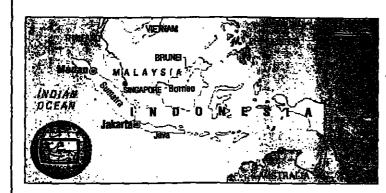


For your free protection pack, complete and return the coupon to: Midland Bank pic, Protection and Healthcan





Indonesian police kill six as riots worsen



By Richard Lloyd Parry in Medan

AT LEAST six people were killed, and many more were wounded vesterday, as Indonesian police fired on protesters in the worst riots since the beginning of the Asian economic cri-

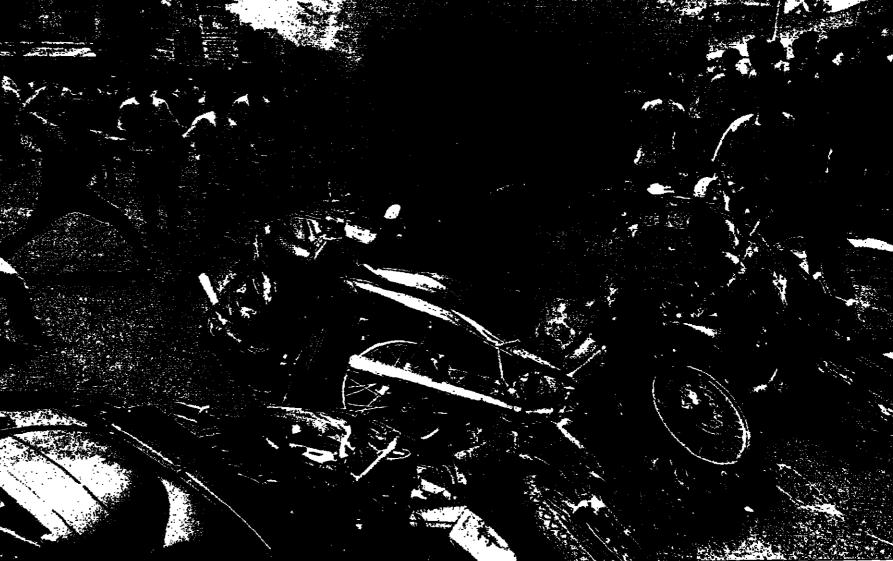
In Medan, the biggest city on the island of Sumatra, local reporters said that six people were killed in the third consecutive day of rioting. Several dozen others were injured, and more than 100 have been arrested after skirmishes between protesters and police who fired first rubber bullets and tear gas, and then live rounds into the crowds.

Cars and motorbikes were also set alight, as thousands of people, including university students and crowds from an evening football

that on several occasions police refrained from firing or intervening in acts of looting, and did not retaliate to taunting from the crowds. But a cameraman for Reuters television suffered bruises after being pushed into a ditch, by a policeman who pressed a pistol into his temple.

In Jakarta, police fired rubber bullets at students after they burnt images of President Suharto and threw stones, and violent disturbances were also reported at universities in Bandung, Yogyakarta, Surabaya in Java and in Ujung Pandang on Sulawesi island.

During a brief visit to Jakarta, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, noted the "particularly tense situation," and urged President Suharto to reform Indonesia's authoritarian political system. "I told the president that in my view the support of the international community would be greater if there were political reforms," he told chief of the Indonesian armed



Rioters burning motorcycles taken from a Chinese-owned shop in Medan in Sumatra yesterday. Indonesia's weathlest ethnic minority have been treated as scapegoats Photograph: Charles Dharapak for the country's economic crisis which has caused a series of price rises, the latest being a 71 per cent increase in the cost of fuel

a press conference at the end of a forces, condemned "anarchy" in the university campuses. In Medan, most Indonesian companies techthree-day tour of South Korea, Malaysia and Indonesia. "There is no place for repression in any society ... the political reform I'm talking about is something that would be supported across the interna-

tional community." But the minister responsible for security indicated that a military crackdown was imminent. Feisal Tanjung, former commander-in-

Medan and promised that "the government will take measures against people involved in this mass destruction and looting".

For most of the year, students. have been holding demonstrations all over Indonesia, but the events in Medan mark a serious escalation of the situation, with potential consequences for the whole country. Until this week, police have largely managed to confine the protests to

they have spilt out on to the streets and become dominated by ordinary working-class Indonesians.

This week, in keeping with economic reforms agreed with the International Monetary Fund, the government abolished subsidies on fuel oil and the price subsequently rose by 70 per cent. This has further affected the transportation cost of basic commodities.

nically bankrupt. Many are laying off employees, and it is this increasing desperation which appears to be fuelling the disturbances.

So far, and despite Indonesia's dire economic situation, President Suharto's loyal power base within the army has allowed him to continue unchallenged. The political opposition is weak and lacking in confidence, and the student demonstrations have no national

leaders. The danger for the government is that working-class rioting, like that in Medan will spread to other cities - or that a violent incident will trigger popular outrage.

Earlier this week, 76-year-old President Suharto indicated that he would not even consider political reform before the end of his present term of office in 2002. Yesterday the Jakarta Stock Exchange, where Mr Brown gave a lunchtime speech, fell nearly 5 per cent.

Clinton mulls Lewinsky appeal

By Mary Dejevsky in Washington

two of his closest aides must tes- eral judge - in a judgment that tify in the Monica Lewinsky case. The two, Bruce Lindsey, a long-time friend and legal adviser of Mr Clinton's, and Sidney Blumenthal, a friend of Hillary Clinton and media strategist to the President, had refused to answer questions about conversations with Mr Clinton had an affair with Ms Clinton on the grounds that they Lewinsky, who was then a White Lindsey could claim lawyerwere protected by "executive House trainee, lied about it un-

need, by virtue of his office, for to lie about it also.

Their right to claim this prorepresented a big setback for Mr Clinton - found for Mr Start. She ruled that the prosecutor's need to uncover the truth outweighed Mr Clinton's need to keep White House conversations private. Mr Starr is trying to establish the truth of allegations that Mr

privilege" - the President's deroath, and prevailed upon her confidentiality of at least some Clinton's horizon came from

For the White House to claim executive privilege on yesterday mulling over whether tection had been contested by Mr Clinton's behalf was a risk, President Bill Clinton should the independent prosecutor in because the last President to do Mr Clinton's personal secretary, aide to a House committee appeal a judge's decision that the case, Kenneth Starr. A fed- so was Richard Nixon, who Betty Currie, was making her chairman resigned, and the Supreme Court, and lost.

Any White House appeal of the judge's decision would keep the story in the public eye, to Mr Clinton's likely disadvantage. On the other hand, an appeal would buy time for Mr Clinton in the Lewinsky case. There was still the possibility that Mr client privilege to preserve the

of his conversations with Mr Clinton about the case.

As the White House was weighing up the pros and cons, rebbounded badly. The senior long-awaited second appearance before the grand jury in the Lewinsky case. Part of Mrs Currie's job was to function as gatekeeper to the Oval Office; she is also recorded as having authorised Ms Lewinsky's admission to the White House on numerous occasions after the former trainee was transferred to work at the Pentagon.

The one bright spot on Mr wrongdoing on her part.

Congress, where a Republican attempt to implicate the Clintons in possible malpractice ton, was under strong pressure to do the same after it emerged that edited transcripts of taperecordings they had released had given a misleading impression of the contents. The edited version appeared to cast doubt on Mrs Clinton's role in the Whitewater affair, while the full version ruled out any

Basque separatists kill fifth councillor

By Elizabeth Nash in Madrid

A GUNMAN shot dead a conservative councillor from the northern Spanish town of Pamplona yesterday morning in an attack attributed to Basque separatists. Tomas Cabailero, 63, was about to get into his car near his home when two men approached him and one fired two bullets to his head. The victim died shortly afterwards in hospital,

Mr Caballero, spokesman for the Navarran People's Union (UPN) group on Pamplona council, is the fifth local conservative politician to have been gunned down in the past year. His party is a regional ally of the ruling Popular Party. He had recently argued with councillors of the Basque nationalist Herri Batasuna party, supporters of the separatist or-

ganisation Eta. The HB councillors sued Mr Caballero for slander after he had accused them of "incitement to murder".

Yesterday's attack came moments after the Interior Minister, Jaime Major Oreja, announced the discovery of an Eta plot to kill King Juan Carlos. He said Eta planned to attack on the King during a visit later this year to the Basque city of San Sebastian. The plot, the third in recent years directed against the King, was uncovered during the interrogation of six Eta suspects arrested at the weekend.

Eta guerrillas had the King in their rifle sights in August 1995 during a failed assasmation attempt on Majorca, Three suspects were convicted and jailed last year. Last October, police foiled a plot to bomb the insugural ccremony of the Guggenheim museum in Bilbao which the King was due to attend.

US reduces watch on Iraq

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton has decided the situation in the Persian Gulf has calmed enough to allow for a "temporary gap" in maintaining two aircraft carriers in the strategic waterway. One of the two carriers there, the USS Independence, is scheduled to eave the Gulf later this month. Because of a schedule change in the departure of a third carrier from the United States, the USS Stennis will be the sole aircraft carrier for about three weeks maintaining the watch over Iraq. - AP, Washington

Kok heads for victory

THE Dutch Prime Minister Wim Kok cruised toward a second term yesterday in general elections likely to strengthen his Labour Party's grip on parliament. With the Dutch economy growing strongly and unemployment at 4.8 per cent, Mr Kok's Labourled coalition was expected to be reshuffled for a second term. Polls predicted Labour would raise its 37-seat holding in the 150seat lower house to 46.

Guardsman's letter may shed light on Vatican shootings

A LETTER sent from a torexplain the motive behind the fatal shootings in the Vatican on Monday of the newly appointed commander of the Papal Swiss Guard, Colonel Alois Estermann, and his wife Gladys Meza Romero, by guardsman Cedrich Tornay.

But the Vatican has refused to divulge the contents of the letter, and Tornay's mother yesterday told Italian state radio that no letter had yet reached her.

According to the Vatican, Tornay handed the letter to a fellow guardsman 90 minutes before shooting Estermann and his wife dead in their apartment. then turning the gun on himself.

Tornay, 23, who had served in the Pope's personal security corps for three years, was bitter over reprimands from Estermann, and disappointed that he had not been included in the list of guards to be honoured in

a ceremony scheduled to take firmed the official sequence of place yesterday.

in Rome, attended a Papal audience in which the Pope recalled Estermann's "great faith. and his dedication to duty". They were also present for the funeral service for Estermann and his wife held in St Peter's basilica yesterday afternoon.

Rules forbidding church commemoration for suicide cases will be waived to allow a private funeral service for Tornay in St Anne's chapel inside the Vatican this afternoon.

In a press conference yesterday, Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro Valls said autoosies carried out inside the Holy See showed that Estermann suffered two bullet wounds through the head and shoulder, Gladys Meza Romero one through the left shoulder, and that a shot through the mouth had killed Tornay.

The autopsies, he said, con-

events announced after the in-That celebration was can-cident. The Holy See could celled following the shootings. now be "morally certain" Tormented son to his mother may Instead, relations and friends of nay had killed his commanding madness".

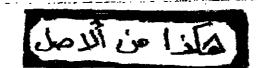
What the autopsies did not show was the whereabouts of the fifth bullet missing from the barrei of Tomay's service revolver.

Nor did they explain why a young man in the grip of a "fit of madness" should take time out to write to his mother, calmly hand that letter over to a fellow guard, and, according to Italian press reports, talk at length with his mother on the telephone, before bursting into his superior officer's home and opening fire.

If Tornay was responsible for the Estermanns' deaths, it would appear he had thought about it quite rationally. Until the contents of the letter are revealed, however, what pushed a highly trained professional soldier to such tragic lengths will







Pooh bear and Jeremy Fisher as you've never seen them before

LOST drawings of Winnie the Pooh and Christopher Robin by EH Shepard and Mr Ieremy Fisher by Reating Details of the Pooh and Mr Ieremy Fisher by Reating Details of the Pooh and Christopher Robin by EH Shepard and letter tells how Mr Fisher went fishing for scratching his snout with a quill – is one be published for the first time when they go on sale at Sotheby's today.

They have been tempted out of obscurity by record auction prices fetched for other works by the artists - £78,500 for a Shepard at Christie's and £39,500 for a Potter at Bonhams.

Saved from the rubbish dump, the Potter ink drawing, one of seven featured in a letter she wrote in 1893 to a son of her former governess, is the first appearance of her famous frog - The Tale of Mr Jeremy

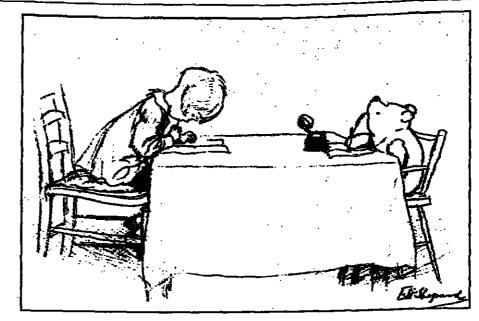
minnows and pricked his finger on a stickleback. He got cross and went home

and all the little fish laughed at him. The last public appearance of the letter was at Sotheby's in 1947, when it fetched £50. Years later, it was rescued by a young girl in Connecticut, in the United States, from a box of books left to be dumped by the former owner of a house she had moved into with her parents. It is estimated to fetch £40,000.

The ink drawing of Pooh and Christopher writing letters - both pensive. of three drawn by Shepard for admirers. The owner remembers them from childbood, hanging in frames above the fireplace of his home near Chester. His mother was

given them in the 1960s by a friend. Unpublished Poohs lack the nostalgia value of those that were reproduced in AA Milne's books. Nevertheless, the drawing is expected to fetch £10,000 to £15,000 and another two, showing Pooh done, £6,000 to £8,000 each.

John Windsor





Fisher (above) just escaped the rubbish dump, while Pooh and Christopher Robin (left) spent years hanging above a fireplace

First he took Manhattan

New York's glitterati turned out in force to see Howard Hodgkin's latest show, snapping up most of his work even before the private view had ended. By Paul Levy

DESPITE the noise made by the young Britpack of Damien Hirst, Rachel Whiteread and in the Friday edition - but the Chapman brothers, the number of living artists from Cool Britannia who have really made their mark on the American art world's consciousness is few. David Hockney, of course, and also Lucian Freud, Richard Hamilton and Richard Long. The cultural traffic in the visual arts is mostly in the other direction. But with the opening his new show of 13 paintings at New York's hottest commercial gallery, Gagosian, Howard Hodgkin has grabbed arty Manhattan's attention.

This is an important show for the 67-year-old painter, his first here since the large but not complete retrospective exhibition that began in 1995 in Fort Worth, then toured - impressing the hell out of his fans - to the Metropolitan Museum here, and then to Dusseldorf, before coming triumphantly home in of the picture plane and part of 1997 to London's Hayward Gallery. Almost universally acclaimed, this touring show conolidated the critical reputation Hodgkin had achieved since he represented Britain in the 1984 Venice Biennale.

may shed

otings

New York always has one art dealer with charisma. Currently at is Larry Gagosian, with two galleries: one Downtown, which allows him to keep up with the art-trend-spotters, and an Uptown 980 Madison Avenue space that used to be the old and old money Parke-Bernet gallery. It is in the latter that

Hodekin's work is being shown until 13 June, and where there was a glittering private view last Thursday. Several collectors and would-be collectors were disappointed to find that almost all the pictures had been sold, as the museum and art world establishment sipped a little white wine and a lot of San Pellegrino with a good number of the artist's close friends and plenty of A-list celebrities. Sigourney Weaver, Irene Worth and David Hockney were the most familiar faces and they icined us on the coaches that took 100 guests to Gagosian's dinner afterwards.

This was only the first of the lavish but informal parties to mark the Hodgkin conquest. There was another on Saturday night, given by his London dealer, Anthony d'Offay, at the town house built for himself by architect Philip Johnson on East 52nd Street.

There, paying tribute to Hodekin - by cating Glorious Food's potato crepes with goat cheese, served with a fine 1994 Meursault and baked red snappaccompanied, as Hodgkin prefers, with red wine (in this case a superb, still, red champagne, Bouzy Rouge) - were art-world luminaries Hockney, Alsworth Kelly, Brice Marden, fall Viola, Kiki Smith and the dayen of New York art critics John Russell and his wife Rosanond Bernier, the celebrated

keturer on art. A single, small, earlier painting by Hodgkin, After Morandi, aing in the fover, and I undersand that a collector, frustrated a his attempt to buy a picture a the Gagosian show, managed to put a reserve on this one befire the woman seated to my left could indicate her own interest is buying it. There was not ough Hodgkin to go around. For, by this time, there was ssort of aesthetic frenzy shaping up. The local reviews probby won't appear before this

coming weekend - the New York Times' art reviews are carried word-of-mouth has aiready done its stuff, and the gallery is crowded. ("I don't think that the daily reviewers matter to the people who buy Howard's paintings," an important museum curator said to me.)

You take the lift to the sixth floor and are stunned by your first sight of the single painting you see when you walk down the long white entrance corridor. Bamboo (1995-97) is not big, but this 24in by 27in rectangular oil painting on wood makes a disproportionate impact. You glimpse a deep, window-like perspective through the cobalt-blue painted frame, and your eye is drawn so rapidly into the lower right hand corner that, at first, you almost overlook the orange, red and brown brushstrokes, so wide and bold that they cover most

Then you turn the corner into a room with six small paintings. The colours are so vivid and strong that it is a little like being in a walk-in jewellery box. Nan Rosenthal, a curator in the department of 20th-century art at the Metropolitan Museum. told me: "Quite apart from the Met show, this is Howard's most beautiful gallery show. He's at the top of his form - the consistent level of quality is amazing; every picture is so lively, so confident in its touch. I like seeing the larger-scale pictures, but, of course, he's always been wonderful at small-scale paintings, which few others are."

And in the small gallery at Gagosian there are some breathtaking pictures. When in Rome (1996-97) is oval (its centre panel was originally a small board belonging to a friend, which Hodgkin has enlarged to 24in by 19in). A homage to Roman baroque, the swirling brushstrokes create a trompe l'oeil effect that suggests you're looking sideways on at what is really a ceiling painting, and your glance recedes into a Tiepolo blue central passage.

Old Sky (1996-97) is one of the loveliest pieces in the show. Its umber and gold image bleeds onto a small gilded frame, making the viewer think at once of Turner or old Dutch skyscapes. The ornate Chinese red painted frame of Chinoiserie (1994-97) reminds you both that Hodgkin can take a long time to decide that a painting is finished, and that he often begins with a found object



'In Mirza's Room' (1995-8) by Howard Hodgkin (below left). His current works reveal a new confidence Photographs: Bruce Bernard/Anthony d'Offay

refers to a house in Italy (not a palace), is painted on a white ground, which means that the paint looks thinner and more diaphanous than usual. The brushstrokes are very broad. and you feel that you can almost reconstruct from the marks the order in which they were made, and so "read" the history of the painting, something Hodgkin's past work has perhaps deliberately kept secret. There are no labels, captions

have enjoyed hunting for some sort of drawing they were convinced (usually because of the titles) underlay the image, maybe giving the picture a narrative coherence. Hodgkin's new work reduces the temptation to indulge in this.

I think this is because of a new confidence in Hodgkin's current works. In most of them you can tell which is the final stroke of the brush. And in most cases this is wide, broad and

Turn the corner into a room with six small paintings. The colours are so vivid and strong that it is like being in a walk-in jewellery box

like this frame, the oval board, or the mouldings that came from a church, which have been used to make a frame for the large picture, Andrew Allfree

One of the larger paintings of the six in the main gallery is revolutionary for Hodgkin in this regard. The most recently finished one, Rain at Il Palazzo (1993-98), has no frame. Moreover, this picture, whose title

in this show, though a sheet with titles, dates and dimensions is available, as is a fine catalogue. Titles remain important when looking at a Hodgkin - some references are so concrete they contain people's names or indicate locations. It is the titles that remind you that Hodgkin does not regard himself as an abstract artist. In the past, scholars, critics and collectors

or even numbers on the walls looks as though it has been anplied rapidly. "The brushstroke seems looser," says Rosenthal, "on the whole very unlaboured. He seems able to resolve things more quickly for himself. There is energy in these pictures, rather than conspicuous studiedness.' I was very struck by some correspondences with some calligraphic works in the great China exhibition currently here at the Guggenheim Museum, Artistic

self-confidence is all; one slip of the brush and the work (in Hodgkin's case, usually of years) would be ruined.

Hodgkin's collectors are special types, almost a club themselves. I asked Norman Finkelstein, a brash, outspoken, Yale-educated (in music) New Jersey surgeon, who, with his brother Fred, owns no fewer than six Hodekin paintings what he thought of the show and why he collected Hodgkin. Dr Finkelstein shared the universal high opinion of the show, and answered my other question thoughtfully: "The colour, of course, and the energy. But in all Howard's pictures - to quote my old art history professor's view of Greek vases - through the image there emerges an enveloping and warm humanity."

"Lyrical and heroic," said a Russian writer friend, and I see what she meant. The colours sing, the forms and shapes move so much they practically dance, the brushstrokes are so bold they are thrilling. And there is heroism, too. In the face of today's minimalism and instaliation art, Hodgkin's work emphatically affirms the central place of painting.

Howard Hodgkin's next show will be in Berlin in November. His next London exhibition will be at the Anthony d'Offay Gallery in

THE INDÉPENDENT THE NEW MULTI BAND FM, MW, SW TEN BAND WORLD RADIO Just £18.50 inc p&p has eight short wave selections which enable you to tune into overseas broadcasts. Perfect for home or holidays when you can listen into broadcasts from the world's major cities. Very useful for hig sporting events as well as world news as it happens. When in use at home you can trope in to the World and still have the benefit of FM and MW for your favourite UK broadcasts. Operating with 2 AA batteries (not supplied) the radio has the benefit of a DC jack allowing operation from mains supply. Very powerful with an excellent tone, our World Band radio has all the benefits that you would associate with larger and more expensive radios. The features include a headphone socket for private listening, a 39cm telescopic aerial, carrying strap. VHF led tuning indicator and DX/local switch. The 8 short-wave bands cover a range of 5.90 to 18.10 MHz. You can purchase a universal mains adaptor for your radio for just £7.50 with set-tings which will enable you to operate other battery red items provided that they have a DC socket, Radio/s @ £18.50 inc p&p The World Band radio is a saip at only £18.50 includ-(address on back) made nav HOW TO ORDER

Fill in the coupon and send together with cheque or por THE INDEPENDENT WORLD BAND RADIO OFFER 325 LONDON ROAD, WESTCLIFF ON SEA, ESSEX \$50 TBX For Access/Visa orders, please phone 01702 332922 We deliver to addresses in the UK mainland only. Pleas Seed ac. THE INDEPENDENT WORLD BAND RADIO OFFER, allow up to 28 days for delivery from receipt of order.

325 London Road, Westcliff on Sea, Essey SSO 7BX Return within 7 days for refund if not completely satis-Mante bek that het if you do not writ in severae (kover est on from) If companies approved by Newspaper Patriology Pie. fied. Offer subject to availability. eg in England, 1988/67 Newspaper, Publishing pile Reg Office | Casata Square, Casary Wilese, Landon Eld St.

You couldn't make it up. But the TV producers did

Why let the facts get in the way of a good story? Paul McCann

discovers how the truth isn't enough

LIFE is no longer exciting enough for television producers. Confessional chat shows, docusoaps, and now, it seems, award-winning investigations are no longer factual programmes. Instead, our TV screens are proffering us real life - but with a twist. Non-fiction is served up, mixed with fiction. Or, as Alan Clark might put it. the people who make the shows have become "economical with the actualité".

The most shocking example of combining fiction with fact is the alleged decision by an award-winning Carlton documentary team to fake a programme about Colombian drug-smugglers. In recent months two other documentaries: The Driving School on BBC1 and Channel 4's Cutting Edge - Rogue Males, have been revealed to contain faked scenes. Those involved in such programmes are (perhaps not surprisingly) reluctant to talk on the record.

The BBC admitted that scenes in The Driving School, including one in which the infamous Maureen Rees wakes her husband up at 4am to test her on the Highway Code, were faked. It may, with a second's thought, seem blindingly obvious that a camera crew didn't hunker down in Maureen's bedroom every night waiting to catch the scene, but documentaries do claim to be real life. There was also a suggestion that some of her minor car crashes might have been pre-planned.

Channel 4 was even more embarrassed in February when a Cutting Edge documentary supposed to be about a group of "ducking and diving" cowboy builders was exposed as being largely a reconstruction of the men's claims. Some characters who appeared to be strangers actually knew each other. Three of the characters had been seen in a previous documentary: one who appeared was said to have "roped in a few mates" for the programme. Blushing Channel 4 could only say at the time: "There was an element of reconstructed truth of sorts, but there is not a documentary around which does not have an element of that in it."

It seems that in the case of The Connection, the soap-doc's casual attitude to the verité and then cut to a shot of the lift may have flowed from the popular fly-on-the-wall genre to the supposedly serious world of undercover investigations.

There is a distinction between making use of the gram- My personal benchmark is mar of television and making



Film-makers should pause for thought

MOST regular viewers will have suspected some time ago that British television has been corrupted by the narcotics trade. It tries to get along without the easy high of menace and machismo offered by drug documentaries, but it just can't kick the habit. Wait for long enough and you're sure to find more grainy footage of furtive deals or interviews with concerned

But few viewers can have realised to what lengths the addiction would drive some documentary makers. Revelations about the extent to which Network First's award-winning film The Connection was synthesised indicate just how desirable such stories have become and, as with drugs, if you

one of TV's most successful

scap-docs. "Undoubtedly if you

film someone getting into a lift

doors closing from the inside,

you've intervened, in reality, to

move the story along. It's also

acceptable to re-shoot scenes

because of technical problems.

would this have happened any-

way? If so we can re-shoot it."

can't score the real thing you can always try to grow Viewers might not realise

but compression and reconstruction are the staple building blocks of modern documentaries. On any evening of the week it would not be hard to find films which compress extended ogy or which arrange to have real occurrences reenacted for the camera. Indeed, it would be virtually impossible to find films in which such accommodations are not employed.

The problem is that the professional's notion of probity and that of the audience have drifted apart. Talk to documentary makers and you encounter two principle defences for any departure

In some soap-docs, charac-

ters will talk straight to camera

to explain the context of scenes,

sometimes a narrator will do it.

In the more dramatic does, a bit

of exposition through faked

dialogue is also used to move

makers' tricks that viewers need

to be wary of. Many producers

talk about dull and listless

But it is not just the film-

things along.

from straightforward obser-

The first is the Higher Truth argument, by which any tampering with unsatisfactory actuality is defended on the grounds that it merely compensates for the deficiencies of the camera. If people are unlikely to commit crimes in front of a film crew then, the arg goes, it is entirely legitimate to reconstruct such a crime so it can be represented on

The second is the Sophisticated Andience argument, which insists that television viewers are now perfectly aware of the manipulations involved in all documentary - and if the viewer already knows that a film offers a manufactured version of reality then there is no need to

members of the public coming

to life when a camera appears.

The most notorious example

was the BBC's film about the

Adelphi Hotel in Liverpool. As

one rival producer puts it:

"Every time the film crew ap-

peared in Hotel, someone got

The propensity of the pub-

lic to act up for the cameras has

a bollocking."

Thomas Sutcliffe, TV critic in the studio confessional shows

where professional guests are

Right to Reply regularly

demonstrates - audiences continue to take a purist

line on such matters. This

belief in the authenticity of

all they see is sometimes in-

As the Network First case

suggests, it may be time for

documentary makers to be-

come more simple-minded

themselves. "The Connec-

anomaly among British doc-

umentaries, it is an extreme

make all filmmakers pause

tion" is not a monstrous

example – which should

for thought.

senuous but it is not dis-

now a regular feature. Dave Smith, a 39-year-old unemployed man from Colchester, admits to having appeared on more than 20 daytime chat shows, including Kilroy and The Time, The Place. Once he pretended to be a loan shark and on another occasion been taken to its logical extreme a man who fantasised about

killing his wife. "I did it because I got a kick out of it and I wanted to break into TV," he explained. "Ive got my mates doing it too now. We get put up distract them further with in £200-a-night hotels and once captions distinguishing the we ran up a £400 bar bill." Mr Smith believes that some real from the reconstructed. In fact, - as Channel 4's

TV researchers, who are desperate for dramatic guests. have suppressed their suspicions of him in order to get him on their show. However, after appearing at the Edinburgh Television Festival last year to explain his hoaxes, the Kilrov show now rings him at home if it suspects he might be on the guest list, using a pseudonym.

Maureen Rees (left) whose

Driving School were hugely

exploits on BBCI's The

popular with viewers.

Eleen Downey (top),

manager of the Adelphi

Hotel in Liverpool, another

BBC1 ratings winner, and

"I've got my mates doing

jobless Dave Smith, who

was prepared to be

programme needed.

anything the Kilroy

it now," he says

Kilroy has suffered other embarrassments: last year it was censured by the BBC after a hoaxer appeared on the show claiming to be a paedophile.

The standard explanation for television producers' deceptions is that the competitive pressure for ratings now means real life is not dramatic enough.

However, some think that in the case of The Connection, pressure to get ratings was combined with old-fashioned journalistic ego: One awardwinning producer for Channel 4 said: "The programming beads only want sexy subjects like crime and drugs, so you can imagine the programme-makers pitching this great story to ITV and then discovering that their only contact was a Colombian waitress. Rather than go back and admit defeat, it looks like they just made it up."

The children forced to do man's work

cycling industry but none of it

paid enough and I ended up

begging," he says. "We often ate

food just picked out of the

gutter, even if it was three days

old, because if you did not eat.

changed. He met Pat Botwright,

from Norfolk. She had moved

to Kenya in 1993 to set up an

orphanage for street children in

Nairobi. She gave Charles a

place at the Covenant House

Family Unit and his first op-

the orphanage at the age of 16

that I slept on a mattress for the

first time." Last September,

after passing seven O-level

standard qualifications, he

came to England to study for A-

levels in business studies, eco-

nomics, European history and

geography at Bedford Modern 🚁

"It is only due to the grace

While he supports the Glob-

of God that I am now studying

here after all that happened to

me in Kenya," says Charles.

al March, he has no illusions

about what is required to crad-

icate child labour - and that is

economic change. "If wages

don't increase for people then

children will always be forced

to earn money. If members of

my family had been paid a

proper wage, then I would not

As well as hoping for a favourable convention at the

ILO, march organisers are

seeking other measures that will

lead to the eventual outlawing

of child slave labour. British

companies are being urged to

adopt independently monitored

codes that preclude goods that

have been produced by ex-

ploiting children. States are

also being pressed to strength-

en and implement their national

laws on child labour, and com-

pulsory education, in accor-

dance with the international

conventions on the rights of the

have had to work."

"It was only when I went to

portunity to study.

Four years ago, his luck 📥

you died."

WHEN you first meet Charles Anderson, he seems an ordinary schoolboy: working hard for his A-levels, enjoying life with his friends. But Charles once had another life in the fields of Kenya, earning a pittance, afraid of being beaten for not doing his job. Now, he is 19; when he was first a coffee picker he was just seven.

The plight of boys like Charles was highlighted yesterday when an unusual petition, made up of thousands of footprints, was handed in to 10 Downing St as part of a global campaign against child labour. Schoolchildren from across the UK and Ireland have drawn around their feet to show support for the campaign.

The Global March Against Child Labour began in the Philippines. Its next stop is the International Labour Organisation Heatiquarters in Geneva, at the start of June, where a new agreement to outlaw the most exploitative forms of child labour will be discussed.

When Charles began his working life, he was paid just 10p a day for picking coffee. His mother received 30p for the same work. "My mother was a single lady and we lived in a shanty town," he says. "I also worked in a quarry, breaking stones and loading them into vehicles." Charles was forced to leave

home by a stepfather who regularly beat him. "In our community, single mothers were shunned and by way of punishment they were forced to live with a older men." When the beatings became too much, he went to live with his grandmother. He still had to work in the fields. Then his grandmother fell ill.

so and she died," he said. After her death, Charles had nowhere else to go and was forced on to the streets of Nairobi. "I just walked out one morning and went to look for . food."

harder. "I picked up plastic bags, papers and other things that could be sold to the re-

"I desperately needed to earn enough money from working in the fields to pay for medicine for her, but I failed to do

All of the global marchers hope to outlaw the type of situation that has led to so many children like Charles Anderson spending their lives labouring Life on the streets was even on the streets rather than in the classroom.

Paul Donovan



New life: Charles Anderson at school in Bedford Photograph: Rui Xavier

DILEMMAS

You may think your Internet affair is harmless. It isn't



VIRGINIA IRONSIDE

thought about flirting. One is that it's safe, it's fun, everybody does it, and it's harmless, just giving two people a little kick - no more dangerous than sharing a glass of champagne. But the other school of thought is that it's risky, that once you a foot inside, you may no

with her boyfriend. But she's been talking to people on the Internet and has become close to one. They are having kisses and hugs and even more - though they've never met. Is she betraying her boyfriend?

Angela's happily living

THERE are two schools of longer have any control over the situation. Of course, if you flirt with an

actual person who's present in real flesh and blood there are extra dangers. It's easy to touch and to risk that electric spark igniting between you. But because of the very risk, it doesn't open the door a crack and get often happen and flirting's kept to meaningful looks and saucy

comments. But on the Internet, because the risk of real contact appears so slight, it's easier to get carried away. I think Angela's playing a dangerous game. For a start, who knows that this man won't one day sud-

denly take it into his head to get a ticket from Brazil, or wherever he lives, and suggest a meeting at Heathrow Airport? What would Angela do then? After all, safely married men can get divorced and suddenly start coming on in earnest, and even long-term prisoners, who might be thought to be fairly remote, can suddenly get years off for good behaviour and turn up on your doorstep.

I once started a correspondence with a man who lived in Kenya. It wasn't a flirtation but rather an intense friendship. Imagine my horror when he turned up in Dover, demanding to see me. Imagine my greater horror when he got married, went straight into a

mental home, and started ringing me up at the magazine where I worked telling me about the strange voices he heard. Imagine my even greater horror when I opened the paper and found he had been had up for a random murder and was now on his way to Rampton. It taught me a hard lesson.

Who knows that this man Angela's involved with won't turn into a stalker, someone who gets obsessed by her? Or, worse, her own obsession with this man may have an effect on her and her boyfriend's relationship. A friend of mine, who do-

veloped what she thought was an innocent, but overwhelming, crush on a father at her daughter's school, was baffled because her own husband suddenly started having violent rages. It didn't occur to her that at some level this poor man had caught on to what was up, and was reacting against her faraway looks. her preoccupation with dressing up to the nines at 3,30pm every day, her withdrawal into herself and her fantasies. And, finally, Angela should

ask herself what she would

feel if she discovered her own boyfriend was having an Internet "affair". If she feels she could live with him writing how his body feels when pressed against another girl's, that he gets an erection just at the thought of turning on the computer, that he can feel her tongue in his mouth, then that's fine. But she'd be a funny bunny to feel happy about a relationship like that. She is betraying her boyfriend. She knows it, too, or she wouldn't be asking the question. She should stop at once.

READERS' REPLIES

My boyfriend met someone through the Internet and I think Angela's playing with fire. He went to meet her and

nothing of course, but by then it was too late. I could never trust him again. He now begs me to come back but my feelings for him have changed. Angela should stop this relationship immediately

they had an affair. It came to There's nothing harmful in this. It's a normal, healthy way of living, and as long as Angela never actually takes her Internet relationship further, no harm can come of it. Brìan Elder, Edinburgh

i do not think that Angela is

betraying her boyfriend. Rather that she might be betraying herself. I would ask why she need e-mail hugs and kisses. Does her real-life boyfriend not give her enough kisses and hugs? Has she communicated her

needs to him? Nicholas E Gough, Swindon, Wilts 🥏

NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA

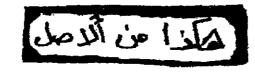
My husband works away abroad for a month and returns home for two weeks. I find it increasingly hard to cope. When he returns he insists on being the Man about the House, disrupting my routines, and disciplining the children about things that never bother me.

Last time he was here he insisted on exchanging our big, reliable, old banger for a new one, which doesn't suit me nearly so well as it only has two doors. Having created uproar, he then goes away leaving me to pick up the pieces till next time.

My social life is nil, too, because when my husband's home he wants to see me alone all the time, but when he's away I long for friends but can never maintain them.

if we lived together all the time I'm sure things would settle down. But how can I cope with such a peculiar life? Does anyone else have this problem? — Diane

Letters are welcome, and everyone who has a suggestion quoted will be sent a bouquet from Interflora. Send comments and suggestions to Virginia Ironside at the Features Department. The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL (fac 0171-293 2182), by Tuesday morning. If you have a dilemma of your own that you would like to share, please let me know.



Syd Lawrence

FOR millions the great era of swing music died one day in December 1944 when the Army aeroplane flying Glenn Miller to Paris disappeared, and neither it nor the world's top dance band leader were ever seen again. Miller's music has never died, however, thanks to the continued reissuing of his many recordings through ever changing inventions - 78s, LPs, 45s, and CDs - each new system mobbed in 1946. bringing back the original His first civvy job was to blow Miller sound with bigger and his trumpet in a Merseyside better reproduction, and

brough the live performances f a few dance band devotees. And none were more devoted than Syd Lawrence. It is unlikely that Sydney Lawrence ever saw himself rising to band leader, let alone be-

coming the prime British exponent of his American idol's style. He was born quite humbly in Wilmslow, Cheshire, in 1923, and although his parents made him learn the violin, strings had no real appeal to

He soon joined the local brass band where he was taught to play the cornet, and this would remain his true instrument throughout his musical life Leaving school at 14 he went to work at the Shetton Steelworks, at night finding enough energy to blow the trumpet in a local semi-professional dance band.

By 1939 and the onset of the Second World War the 16-yearold Lawrence was musically proficient enough to join an Ensa troupe, which did not prevent him from being called into the Royal Air Force two years later. After basic training he was talented enough to join the RAF Middle East Command Dance Orchestra, playing in many a Naafi until he was de-

dance band led by Ai Powell: they promptly won that year's Dance Band Championship sponsored by the music trade magazine, Melody Maker. The next year Lawrence was found playing at Billy Butlin's Holiday Camp in Skegness, under the leadership of Nat Temple, who would in time rise to become a comedy star in Breakfast with Braden

In 1948 he was trumpeting in Teddy Foster's Band, and in 1949 he joined Cyril Stapleton's Orchestra, not yet reformed as the BBC Show Band but busily touring dance halls on the road around the country. A year with Stapleton, and Lawrence was ready to start his own dance

With some of his old colleagues from the Al Powell days he formed a quintet to play at the Clemence Restaurant in Chester. It was small but it was ern Hotel in Chorlton-cum-

a start, even if it did not last long. Hardy. The ploy was to recre-Stapleton hired him back in · 1950, but a year later Lawrence moved over to join Geraldo and his Orchestra, then across to the Grosvenor House to play for Sidney Lipton's Band. Lawrence married in 1951,

and not wishing to live permanently in London moved back north in 1953. While waiting for his big chance, he took a day job servicing vacuum cleaners. However this did not last long. and soon he was trumpeting for the newly-formed BBC Northem Dance Orchestra, known affectionately throughout the land as the NDO.

The director was Alyn

Ainsworth, and their "Big Band" sound was enormously popular with radio listeners of that era. The band backed many popular variety programmes as well as broadcasting their own regular series, Make Way for Music. Lawrence was with the band for 15 years, and listeners to those shows may not know that be was also one of the closeharmony voices in the band's vocal quartet, he also blew some ragged notes in the Gatecrashers Dixieland Band and also the Tradlads, both jazz groups within the NDO

It was not until 1967 that Lawrence and a few likeminded musicians got together on a Tuesday night at the South-

The Syd Lawrence Orchesate his favourite dance band tra was finally made. Lawrence sound, the music of Glenn hit a vein of nostalgia, reviving yesterday's melodies where too Miller. A year later they had moved to the Mersey Hotel, much rock'n'roll was making Didsbury, where he opened older heads ache. They cut two with an 18-piece orchestra, long players a year, topped ramore than enough for the "Big dio and television shows, played Band" effect. Like all true Miller music in the Channel Isdance band musicians, lands and across Europe, and delighted several Royal Variety Lawrence and his boys were playing for fun not profit. Performance audiences.

His musical arrangements They began to play the occasional away date, and whilst were meticulous, carefully at the Royal Victoria Hotel in recreating many a lost original, Sheffield in 1969, Granada and in his 30-year career at the Television got wind of their top he compiled a collection of wonder and sent along some no fewer than 700 arrangements from the bygone days of Outside Broadcast cameras. The resulting show was a local Miller and his contemporaries, hit and, inspired, Lawrence Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw. quit his BBC Manchester job Tommy Dorsey and the rest. and stepped out into the future.

Lawrence officially retired in It was a big chance, but it came 1990, but his band played on. First under the pianist Bryan BBC Television booked the Pendleton, then under Ken band to back their new series Williams. Now and then when Sez Les, starring the fast-rising be felt fit enough, Lawrence would return to conduct a sesson. In November the band was sion and blow his own trumpet. Although not belonging to the booked into the Royal Festival Hall for a special occasion that original big band era he was the must have seemed the absolute great reviver and restorer. Now peak of Lawrence's career. it would seem, both the origi-They played a Glenn Miller nal bands and their shadows are Tribute Concert to mark the no more.

Denis Gifford

Sydney Lawrence, comet player and band leader: barn Wilmslow, Cheshire 26 June 1923; married (one



son, one doughter); died 5 May 1998. Lawrence: the great reviver and restorer

Photograph: Redferns

ver British ampaign



Photograph: AP Ward: a sex symbol for male teenagers

Helen Ward

MORE so than most of the people who worked for him, Helen Ward was inextricably associated with the clarinettist Benny Goodman. She never tried to break the association and their friendship lasted until his death.

It was not without its stark moments. Goodman was absorbed in his music to such an extent that there was no room for ephemera in his mind. To him. Helen was "Pops". But then he never troubled to remember names and he addressed everybody, including his wife and children, by the same all-purpose sobriquet. Helen Ward had to put up

with a lot from Goodman. For most of the time he was totally unable to consider the welfare of others, being possessed man legend. of self-interest in the ultimate degree.

On one occasion in October 1958 Ward and the pianist André Previn went to Goodman's home to rehearse for a recording session. There were difficulties with the music and finally Ward said, "Benny, you

know what the trouble is? It's just horribly cold in here." "You know," said Benny,

Northern comedian Les Daw-

25th anniversary of the band-

leader's mysterious disappear-

ance. And they also made their

first record, a long-player for

Fontana. It was, of course, a se-

lection of Miller hits.

"you're absolutely right." He left the room and returned wearing a thick woollen sweater and went on with the rehearsal.

Helen Ward, although only 18, had been singing professionally for two years when she first encountered Goodman in 1934. She was already quite well known and didn't intend to ioin his newly formed band as a full-time singer when she auditioned for him. However, the impresario Billy Rose heard the audition and booked the band with Ward for his weekly Let's Dance broadcasts with NBC. It was the beginning of the swing era and of the Good-

singers of the day. Attractive to look at, she became a sex symbol for male teenagers, but it

popular with Goodman's musicians who included rising stars like the trumpeter Harry James and the drummer Gene Krupa.

virtuosi in his band, picked on all of them from time to time, including the notably amiable Кгира.

"Benny was not too great at kicking off tempos," Ward recalled. "He would occasionally start a tune too slow or too fast, and Gene would try to settle into whatever the time was actually supposed to be. That got to Benny after a while." In the summer of 1936 the

tour to California where it had should get married yet." first achieved fame. Ward had future with a boyfriend when Alexander. Goodman came in and sat at

setting provided for her and was with him from the first time I heard him play and he knew it. But by now I had almost put Benny out of my head as far as marriage or anything serious Goodman, a virtuoso among was concerned, and I couldn't imagine what brought this on. My boyfriend took me home, we kissed and he left. Five minutes later the doorbell rang and it was Benny. He said, 'I want to mar-

ry you,' just like that. I said yes." When the tour reached the East Coast the band played at the Steel Pier in Atlantic City. "I was standing on the end of the pier looking out at the ocean when Benny came over to me. He said, Helen. I'm determined to make Goodman band returned on it in music and I don't think I

Ward was a musical singer sporadic affairs with Goodman from the band, only to be ble CD album, and must be accompanied by the cornettist who could swing more con- and during the trip she was in brought back by the persuasive some of the best-selling record- Ruby Braff, the trombonist vincingly than most of the girl a coffee house discussing their talents of its agent, Willard ings CBS has ever had.

"But it broke my heart, and their table. He turned to the after that my feelings for Ben-didn't tour. During this time she was for her sensitive and well- boyfriend and said, "You know, ny petered out." Ward later ac- recorded with bands under the judged vocal style for which she I'm going to marry this girl." "It cepted the proposition of an leadership of Krupa, Teddy will be remembered. She was was completely out of left field," earlier boyfnend. "One evening Wilson, Bob Crosby (with Arington, Virginia 2/ April 1998.

ideally suited to the big band said Ward. "Yes, I was in love before work I told Benny I was leaving. We were sitting at a little table for two in the Manhattan Room. Benny was holding one of those oversize dinner menus, and he just flung it across the table in my face."

Ward's new husband was a

rich man, Alfred Marx. Although she was not with the band at the time of the band's celebrated Carnegie Hall appearance of January 1938, Marx arranged to have two recordings made of the concert on 12-inch acetates. The first set was as a souvenir for his wife, while the second was given to Goodman. The recordings were forgotten until 10 years later when they were finally unearthed, dusted down and issued to the public. album called The Helen Ward Outraged. Ward stormed They are still available as a dou-

> From 1937 to 1942 Ward sang only on recordings and

whom she had the hit record "Day In, Day Out"), Joe Sullivan and Harry James. Her career became sporadic and she only worked when she wanted to. The friendship with Good-

man was repaired and she sang with him on many guest appearances and recordings, particularly during the Fifties. She sang a version of "What a Little Moonlight Can Do" at a Goodman band recording session of 1958 that was so good the band applauded her at the playback. It was 20 years after that that

she returned for the final chapter of her career, performing in public and recording. In 1981 she made her final bow with an Vic Dickenson and other noted instrumentalists.

Helen Ward, singer: born New York 19 September 1916; married; died

Chatichai Choonhavan

locents rug war

434 453

والمعورين

44

\$ 8 ·

AN ESS.

was one of Thailand's most though this territory had to be came to be known, managed to gentina, a country with which flamboyant and long lasting handed back in 1946, the seize most of the reins of powpoliticians. Not only was he a family had by then built a subformer Foreign Minister and stantial commercial empire Chatichai, who was already one abroad for the next ten and Prime Minister. He was also one of the godfathers of Thai politics who had the influence to make or break numerous coalition governments.

influence Chatichai's stemmed originally from his family. His father was Field Marshal Pin Choonhavan who gained prominence in 1941 during a brief border war which enabled Thailand to annex parts land's many military coups Chatichai was sent into virtual

especially in north eastern of its youngest generals, be-Thailand.

It also added to its fortune with a series of well-judged marriages. One of Chatichai's sisters became the wife of the powerful police chief Pao Sriyanon. He himself married Bunrua, a close friend of the royal family.

In 1951, during one of Thai-

er in the country, with coming a cabinet minister as

But they were too obviously greedy. Five years later in another coup, the family lost out amidst allegations that it had amassed millions of dollars in Swiss bank accounts. Whilst his father and brother-inlaw died shortly afterwards,

Thailand had few obvious relations. He was to remain more years but was not completely forgotten.

In 1970 yet another military

coup saw him returning home

to become Foreign Minister, a position he clearly relished. He also set about reforging old family alliances as the basis of a political party to contest Thailand's first truly democratic elections in 1975. Since no party won an out-

several more coups in some of which Chatichai was implicatmilitary rank. In fact be just politics. But it was not until 1990 ambition of becoming prime erament was totally corrupt. minister.

His dream was to transform Thailand into a major centre of political career to an end, he power in South East Asia, and withdrawing all its forces from cient a power base to wreck died London 6 May 1998.

CHATICHAI CHOONHAVAN of Laos and Cambodia. Al- d'état, this Pin-Pao clique as it exile as ambassador to Ar- right majority of seats, the out- Cambodia, he spoke of chang- several successive coalition govcome was a further period of po- ing the concept of Indo-China ernments. For all that he relitical instability marred by as a battleground into a market mained a popular figure with place where Thai businessmen ed although he no longer held trade deals. He had little time mourned. to achieve this aim. Within a could not desist from playing year, he was ousted from power in yet another military coup that he achieved his ultimate on the grounds that his gov-

> Although this seemed to bring Chatichai Choonhavan's never ceased manoeuvring bewith Vietnam on the brink of hind the scenes, with still suffi-

few obvious enemies and his could invest and make lucrative death is likely to be widely

Judy Stowe

Chatichai Choonhavan, soldier, diblomat and politician: born Bangkak 5 April 1922; Deputy Foreign Minister of Thailand 1972-75; Foreign Minister 1975-76; Industry Minister 1976; Deputy Prime Minister 1986-88; Prime Minister of Thailand 1988-91; married (one son, one daughter);



Chatichai: flamboyant Photograph: Rex Features

It might, for example, be the

BIRTHS

LITTLEWOOD: On 26 April 1998, to Sita (nee Dickson) and Tim, a totally gorgeous daughter, Thea Adwoa RIVAZ: On 27 April 1998, to Fiona (née

Houghton) and George, in Bermin a daughter, Sophie.

BRANNAN: Al Glenrothes Hospital, Filip peacefully on Tuesday 5 May 1998, Helen Brown Brannan (Wee Nellie) in her 91st year. formerly of Centre Street, Kelty, last surviving daughter of the late James and Jessie Brannan and dear sister to the late Dous, Annie, Jim. Maegic and Lizzie Doug, Annie, Jim, Maegie and Lizzie and a dear aunt to all the family. Furnish Service at Kirkcaldy Cremotorium on Monday 11 May at 12.30pm, to which all friends are respectfully insited Fermite Reserves only please. ted. Family flowers only please.

uwited. Family llowers only picase.
CRAIGMYLE: Thomas Donald Mackay Shaw, Lord Craigmyle. On 30 April 1989 peacefully at home. Beloved husband of Anthea, much loved father of Alison, Kate, Thomas, Madeleine, Justin and Joseph and grandfather of

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS
The Queen and The Duite of Edinburgh visit
the Royal Mews, Backengham Paloce, in learneds
the change to the use of Liquid Petroteum Casthe change to the use of Liquid Petroteum Casthe change to the rest of Light Petroteum
as Royal Cars. The Duite of Edinburgh, Patron,
as Royal Cars. The Duite of Edinburgh, Patron,
askends The Optivaril Bound Treat Sporting
Askends Lanch at the Hilton Hotel, Park Lund,
Askends Lanch at the Hilton Hotel, Park Lund,
Lundica W. J. The Prizes of Walses, Prizeden, The
france, Itual, intends an occur at Schome's Paloce
for growth the work of the Titus. The Duite of
Closurometric curries out engagements in Cumbria.

BIRTHS, & DEATHS

nine. Requiem Mass at the Brompton Oratory at 11am on Mouday 11 May. Family flowers only. Donations to St Thomas Fund for the Homeless, 58 Cromwell Road, Hove, East Sussex RN3 3ES.

For BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS please telephone 0171-293 2012 or fax

poet", 1.10pm.

Canging of the Guard
The Homehold Cavalry Mounted Regiment many the Queen's Life Found at Home Guards, Hang Founds Home Guards, Hang Founds Home Guards, Cannificating Light Indiancy manners the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Paless, II Blam, band provided by the Right Guards.

MARRIAGES

SEN DIA SES.

SINCLAIR: peacefully on 5 May,
Lydia. Beloved wife of Mitch Glickstein and mother of Hannah and Ben.
Sister to Dileas Timer. Funeral Service on Friday 8 May at St Michael's
Chest Efebrate at 2 20cm fol vice on Friday 8 May at St Michael's Church, Highgate at 2.30pm followed by interment at Highgate Cemetery at 3.30pm. Family flowers only. Donations to Marie Curie Centre, Edenhall, 11 Lyndburst Gardens, Hampstead NW3.

to 0171-293 2010.

Royal Society: Professor Richard Wiseman, "Investigating the Paranormal: a sceptical perspective", 5.30pm.

National Portrait Gallery: Hugh Dickson, "John Skelton (1460-1529): tutor to Henry VIII and outspoken

Gresham College (Batnard's Inn Hall, London EC1): Professor Lynene Hunter, "Lost in Hyperspace", 5.30pm.

Birthdays Mr Nicholas Bennett, chief executive

Association of Consulting Engineers and former MP, 49; Mr Scobie Breasley, jockey, 83; Miss Teresa Brewer, actress and singer, 67; Lord Briggs, historian, 77; Mr Peter Carey author, 55; Mr Tim Collins MP, 34; Sir Charles Commingham, former senior civil servant, 92, Professor Alan Cuthbert, Master of Fitzwilliam Col-

lege, Cambridge, 66; Professor Robert Goodden, architect, 89; Sir James Gowans, former deputy chair-man, Medical Research Council, 74; The Right Rev Robert Halliday, former Bishop of Brechin, 66; Mr Robin Hanbury Termison, explorer and author, 62; Mr David Hatch, for-mer adviser to the Director-General, BBC, 59; Mr Michael Hawkes, former deputy chairman, Kleinwort Benson, 69; Sir Lenox Hewitt, industrialist, 81; Sir Michael Hopkins, architect, 63; Lord Kirkhill, former Lord Provost of Aberdeen, 68; Mr David Leach, potter, 87; Mr Calum Macdonald MP, 42; Sir Neil Macfarlage, company director and former MP, 62; Dr Tony O'Reilly, chairman, H.J.Heinz and chairman, Indepen dent Newspapers, 62; Mr Richard O'Sullivan, actor, 54; Mrs Rath Prawer Jhabvala, author, 71;Mr Christopher Saunders, Headmaster, Lancing College, 58; Miss Eliza-beth Soderstrom, soprano, 71; Mr Clive Soley MP, 59; Mr David Tom-

linson, actor, 81; Sir Alan Traill, former Lord Mayor of London, 63; Maj-Gen Henry Woods, Vice-Lord Lieutenant, North Yorks, 74.

LAW REPORT: 7 MAY 1998

Lack of consent need not be demonstrated

Regina v Malone; Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) (Lord Justice Roch, Mr Justice Sachs and Mr Justice Collins) I May 1998

IT WAS not necessary, in order for an accused who had not used force, threat or deceit to be found guilty of rape, that there should be evidence that the complainant had demonstrated her lack of consent and had com-

municated it to the accused. The Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal of Thomas Patrick Malone against his conviction on 5 February 1997 at Chelmsford Crown Court of rape.

The complainant was a 16year-old girl, and the alleged offence had occurred when she was very drunk. She mainsented to intercourse with the inal Appeals) for the appellant; Anappellant, but that on account drew William (Crown Prosecution of her condition she had been Service) for the Crown.

unable to resist. The issues at Lord Justice Roch said that it superseded Howard and Lang. the trial were whether inter- had been contended on the apcourse had taken place at all; whether, if it had, the prosecution had proved that it had been non-consensual; and whether, if lack of consent had been proved, it was proved that the complainant did not consent or had been reckless as to whether she consented or not.

The appellant was convicted, and appealed against conviction on the ground, inter alia. that the judge had erred on the law applicable to the issue of consent, leading him to rule wrongly at the end of the prosecution case that there was a case to answer, and to misdirect the jury in his summing up. tained that she had not con- Richard Germain (Registrar of Crim-

pellant's behalf that $R \nu$ and Rv Lang (1975) 62 Cr App R 50 were still good law and that, in a case such as the present where the appellant had the appellant had known that not used force, threat or deceit, there had to be evidence that the complainant had offered some resistance either by speech or physical contact. It was submitted that on the com-

> Both cases relied on had been decided prior to the passing of the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 1976. The issue had come before the court again in R v Olugboja 73 Cr App R 344, but it had been submitted for the appellant pend on the particular cirthat that decision had not cumstances of the case.

plainant's own evidence there

had been no such demonstra-

tion of the absence of consent.

The appellant's argument was rejected. The actus reus of Howard [1956] 3 All ER 684 rape was an act of sexual intercourse with a woman who at the or physical force by the defentime of the act did not consent. but there was no requirement of drink or drugs the comthat the absence of consent had to be demonstrated or that it had to be communicated to

The authorities of Howard

the defendant.

and Lang had to be read with caution. Decisions which predated the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 1976 could though they might be of assistance in an appropriate case. In rape there had to be some evof that evidence would de-

complainant's simple assertion that she did not consent to intercourse; evidence of threats dant; evidence that by reason plainant was incapable of giving consent or incapable of being aware of what was occurring; evidence that by reason of age or lack of understanding due to mental handicap the complainant had not consented; or evidence that the complainant was asleep when sexual internot be binding on the court, al- course occurred or had been tricked into giving consent in the belief that the defendant was her order to obtain a conviction of husband or partner. In the present case, there had been idence of lack of consent to go ample evidence on which the before the jury, but the nature appellant could have been convicted, and his conviction was

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

INDEPENDENT

ADDRESS: I CANADA SQUARE, CANARY WHARF, LONDON E14 5DL TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000 FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171 345 2435 THE INDEPENDENT ON THE INTERNET: WWW.INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Coup plot Cook never noticed

DOES Robin Cook know what goes on in his own department?

He would like us to think that he doesn't have a clue. If Mr Cook does know what the Foreign Office gets up to then he would be aware that officials had connived at a British firm of "military consultants", Sandline Ltd, supplying arms and mercenaries to support a coup in Sierra Leone. These activities breached a United Nations resolution and a European Union arms embargo. They are not immediately recognisable as elements in an ethical foreign policy. The affair is now subject to a criminal investigation.

Given all that, it is easier to understand why Mr Cook is so emphatic about his ignorance. In the Commons yesterday, he made categorical denials of ministers' knowledge of, or involvement in, these events. This means that civil servants and diplomats must have conducted an audacious cover-up. It implies that they made sure that neither Mr Cook nor any of his ministers knew that the deputy head of the FO Africa desk, Craig Murray, had met representatives of Sandline in London. They also ensured that their political masters did not know about the British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone's meeting with officials from Sandline before the coup. The Foreign Secretary was left unaware that 30 tons of arms were flown from Bulgaria to Sierra Leone by Sandline in February.

In short, we are invited to believe that, to adapt an old joke, Mr Cook has been treated by his staff as a sort of political mushroom - kept in the dark only to find himself now covered in the rich manure of political em-

There will now be a number of inquiries into the affair. Mr Cook has promised his full co-operation. We hope that public servants will not be used as scapegoats. It is certainly worth mentioning that the regime that they helped to oust in Sierra Leone was brutal and despotic even by Africa's standards. They may have had the best of motives for their actions, which will no doubt be taken into account. If no evidence that links ministers with Sandline emerges then that may be the greatest service they could have performed for their master. Mr Cook will not be the first politician in history to prefer to plead guilty to a charge of ignorance rather than one of complicity.

Londoners must vote for a credible mayor

HOW MANY people vote in today's London referendum on the plan for an elected mayor matters as much as where they put their crosses. No wonder Tony Blair has been drumming up support and Environment Department officials allowing smiley faces on ballot papers to count as a "yes". If the pundits are right and polling stations see participation at usual local government levels - 40 per cent or less - it will be hard to claim full endorsement for the plan. The Government says the referendum is only advisory - it will proceed regardless of the size of the vote. But how hollow the thing will look if Londoners stay away. Any future claim to legitimacy by a mayor - especially in his or her inevitable battles with Whitehall over money or powers - is going to be vitiated to the extent the electors choose to express indifference today.

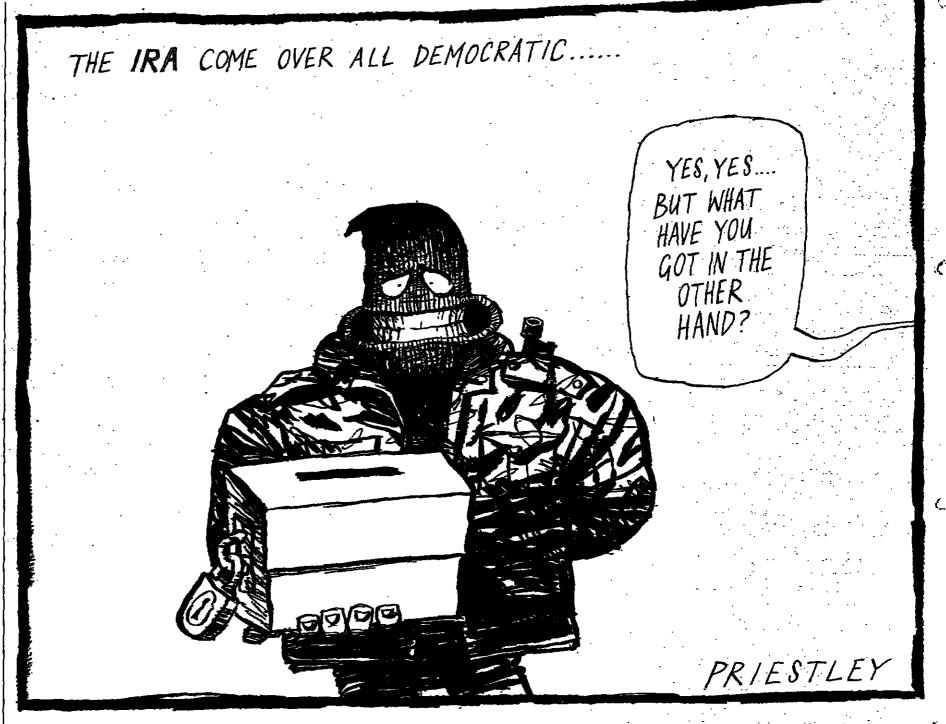
The Government's plan for London is far from perfect. It runs the risk of spreading a luxuriant new follage of office-holders and advisers above the boroughs. At the same time the mayor may be impotent; the Treasury has ensured there is no financial Viagra around. This will be a mayor whose financial discretion is limited to the scrapings of parking charges. Yet the main issue for most Londoners is transport investment and pricing. In principle a determined mayor would be in a position to lobby, to streamline, to plan. In practice the purse strings are going to be tied tight; already a major option - privatisation of the Tube - has been ruled out by John Prescott. Still, the very existence of a figure able to see how policies for parking, buses, trains, housing and employment intersect must be welcome. Those who argue that the existing machinery broadly works miss the fact that it operates in semi-privacy; Londoners are alienated from the authorities op-

Which makes it all the more necessary for them to turn out and vote. In Scotland, an expression of the "settled will" of Scottish residents was required - no one doubted it was obtained in last year's referendum. The Welsh margin was slimmer and the momentum behind plans for the Principality correspondingly reduced. If Londoners cannot be bothered, it will be very hard to muster the enthusiasm which the actual contest for mayor in two years' time ought to stimulate.

New men, real men

NEW MEN, it seems, are having a hard time. Rather than be persecuted for their lack of blokeishness, they've been living double lives and they're finding the stress too much to bear. When they have to take time off work to look after their children they invent excuses about power breakfasts or the Territorial Army or, heaven help us, having to run a marathon. That way their mates still think of them as real men.

Well, the NSPCC has decided to do something about this with a "Men as Fathers" conference to study and heighten awareness of this phenomenon. Laudable though this is, it will take more than a conference organised by a charity to change society's assumptions. All of us have to think about the value we place on a father's involvement with his children. So next time a male colleague arrives a little late and offers the excuse that he's been out on an assault course, just tell him - fatherhood is undervalued and new men are cool.



Chance Blair has to seize

Sir: In Lichfield Cathedral recently, I received, alongside other West Midlands church leaders, over 15,000 petitions to the Government to support measures for sustainable debt relief for the world's poorest countries. When Mr Blair welcomes his fellow world leaders to the G8 summit, in Birmingham on 15-17 May, he will be receiving more such petitions from all over the world. Yet we have so far heard nothing on this issue from Mr Blair himself. There is a strange silence.

President Clinton, during his tour of Africa, stated: "We're going to talk about it at the G8 meeting. And I will stay on top of this to make done is accomplished."

Again, having received thousands of postcards reminding them of German debt relief in 1953, Chancellor Kohl and his Finance Minister have insisted that the debt issue is discussed in Birming-

But there is still no word from Downing Street. On the contrary, there are rumours that Cabinet ministers have been asked not to sign pe-Chancellor, has, on the other hand, said that the issue must be kept on the G8 agenda.

development in Africa, for hospitals, schools, roads, water supply. Poverty in Africa creates violence and endangers peace. Here is a crucial apportunity for Mr Blair to build for peace in Africa as he has done in Northern Ireland. Other schemes mounted by the IMF and World Bank, such as the "Highly Indebted Poor Country" initiative, are in difficulty. Something more radical is needed.

The Prime Minister is President of the European Union. He is host to world leaders at this summit. He believes in love and justice, in seizing the moral high ground. Here is the chance of a lifetime to do just

+KEITH LICHFIELD (The Right Rev Keith Sutton, Bishop **LETTERS**

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Keep the pound high

Sir: The Conservatives have muffed it again, worrying about a soft euro and flight of savings to sterling, making the pound "too strong". This is like worrying about Britain becoming too prosperous.

A strong currency is overwhelmingly beneficial because it confers the power to command economic output. Suppose the pound traded at dollar. We could purchase any dollar-denominated commodity or property for half price. We could repay any dollar-denominated loan at half price. A strong pound will bring soft-Europeans begging for loans denominated (and repayable) in sterling. Being banker to the world is

The goal of UK monetary policy should be to attract capital to this country, not to devalue the pound so titions. Gordon Brown, the a tiny minority of exporters can flog cheap goods that can't compete against low-wage, soft-currency Asians or Europeans. Just as glob-Debt relief will release funds for al inflation threatened world prosperity in the 1970s, the greatest danger today is a spiral of devaluation, with every currency competing to be the "softest" and least dependable store of value.

If William Hague wants to worry about something sensible, he should worry about new Labour taking Britain back into a continental monetary system dominated by socialist France. Surely Mr Hague remembers the idiotic ERM débacle that brought down John Major and made it possible for new Labour to seem reasonable by comparison. ALAN von ALTENDORF

Sir: We have recently seen a plethora of statements by directors of companies bemoaning the high value of the pound and claiming that Libya and Iraq-Iran. That the Israelis

Dunoon, Strathclyde

While it may make it more difficult to close orders, the selling has never been easier. The high value of the pound means that overseas selling costs are greatly reduced. With return air fares to the Far East for under £400 and, for the first time in years discounted hotel rooms in most Far Eastern cities, the opportunity to be there and sell has seldom abrogates in the name of all Israeli

Similar, if less dramatic, reductions apply to other markets, and any company that has not flooded its overseas markets with sales people over the last six months is missing a great opportunity and has no reason to complain.

DAVID HAWKSWORTH Bournemouth, Dorset

US threat to peace

Sir: Robert Fisk's report (6 May) on the outcome of Tony Blair's last-ditch attempt to broker an agreement between Netanyahu and the man who was prepared to make peace with Rabin until this brave man was assassinated, made two things clearer than ever before.

First, when the world's greatest nation (in terms of military power) fields a Secretary of State whose contribution to this meeting will be remembered with the words, "It's up to the parties [to decide] whether we are serving the vegetables well," that nation is no longer fit to do more than just that.

The Palestinians have Europe to thank for the creation of this shambling do-gooder before whom we have bowed and scraped as lesser powers, grateful for US intervention in the last war, while every good that came of this evil has been upset by high-handed intervention, from Vietnam to Grenada, from Chile to

it reduces their ability to "sell" over- have Europe to thank for the Holocaust no longer excuses Europe's fawning conduct towards a country

whose foreign policy is a danger to world peace.

Secondly, Netanyahu clearly believes that his mandate to serve the Israeli electorate is incommensurable with that given to Rabin, whose agreement to make peace with the Palestinians he therefore US salesman stays in power, he and all Israelis come close to complicity in the murderous act of Yigal Amir, without which Jerusalem might now have been on the way to exemplifying the dreams which Jews. Muslims and Christians throughout centuries have pinned

DAVID KUHRT London N8

Safer trains

Sir: you report (30 April) the findings of the Health and Safety Executive inquiry in to the railway accident at Watford. It would not have happened if a system of automatic train protection (ATP) had been in use. The same day saw a near-miss of two commuter trains outside London Cannon Street which also would not have occurred if ATP had been in use.

Time and again we are told by those in charge of our railways that the ATP system that they have in mind is far too costly, requiring expensive computer equipment in every driving cab and at every signal. But the London Underground has a system of ATP which does not use computers - it uses the simplest of Edwardian technology - and it has worked very successfully for about ninety years. Why can't they use that? Dr ARTHUR TARRANT Twickenham, Middlesex

'Understanding' Bell

Sir: Quoting a couplet from Ben Jonson, Gitta Sereny writes in Cries Unheard (reviewed by Boyd Tonkin, 5 May), "Pray thee take care, that tak'st my book in hand/ To reade it well: that is to understand."

Clearly, any understanding derived from the story of Mary Bell, recounted in the public arena in all its appalling detail, should help us to make some sense of the crimes involved. However, we do not all reach the same conclusions in terms of the understanding we have gained. In spite of Sereny's warning, the varied responses to the publication of her book graphically demonstrate

derstanding a particular form of behaviour is the same as explaining it and ultimately preventing it. How ever, explanations of such aberrant behaviour are a different category of insight and can only be based on knowledge about causation. No amount of understanding can be a substitute for this. Rather than providing explanations, the preoccupation with understanding such crimes often is little more than voyeurism. Dr E MORAN

Consultant Psychiatrist London N14

Legal fat cat?

Sir: Is the Lord Chancellor, in pursuance of his commendable objective for freedom of information, prepared to disclose the fees he received in his last year of practice at the Bar? OLIVER MISHCON

🛚 Clin

House Asle

Temple, London EC4

Sex or football

Sir: The solution to the tricky choice between sex with a dream woman and watching the World Cup on television (leading article, 5 May; letter, 6 May) is simple: set the video to record the football match, before enjoying the night of passion. SIMON WEBSTER Brentford, Middlesex

Love, war and lost pyjamas - at last, the romantic novel everyone has been waiting for

to suggest?"



EVERYONE knows that men like reading action-packed war stories. Everyone knows that women prefer emotion-packed love stories. But not everyone knows that a publisher exists who caters for both tastes simultaneously and has pioneered the invention of war love stories.

Yes, Mills & Bang was created solely to bring you military romance, in other words blushful war sagas which combine killing and kissing, hand-holding and hand-to-hand combat in the same pulseracing works of fiction!

Here are some new titles which Mills and Bang are proud to present for your

CLOUD CUCKOO COURT-MARTIAL by Daphne Summerson "MAJOR Rodney Strang is a modern hero", said Lieutenant Jenny Wintle at her court-martial. "He is a peerless soldier! He is a man it is hard not to love! I can say this, because I love him, as a soldier! Not

sexually, not physically - I love him on strictly military grounds! How can anyone say this is wrong?"

There is not a dry eye in the court as the beautiful raven-haired girl in uniform unfolds her tale of passion and explains why she was found in the bed of her commanding officer, even though he was not there at the time. Can she win them round to acquittal? Or will Mrs Rodney Strang get them to see things rather differently? A taut tale of tangled passions, desperate devotion to duty and a vital missing pair of pyjamas.

HEARTS ARE BID by Rosie Coypu

"MIGHT I have a word, sir?" "Carry on, sergeant," said Major Knowles. "It's about that native woman you're interrogating," said the sergeant.

"Excellent source of local information," said Knowles. "I'm glad we got hold of her. Invaluable, Why? "Well," said the sergeant, "there's beginning to be talk among the ranks. You've been interrogating her for over three months now. That's a long time." "Good heavens! What are you trying

Knowles knew perfectly well what the sergeant was suggesting. But was he man enough to admit it? A story that follows the twists and turns of the human heart, and also examines some of the problems of foraging in semi-tropical scrubland. SAX AND VIOLENCE

by Amanda Featherly A SEQUEL to the popular Sex and Violins, this pursues the further career of handmaster Robert "Big Baton" Baistow, as he seeks to lick the regimental band into shape. The band is now mixed, and Robert makes two interesting discoveries: one, that women musicians tend to march at a different speed to men players, and two, that trombonist Nellie Carnforth marches in a much more alluring way than either.

SOMME DAY, SWEETHEART

by Nesta Winterton WHY has Liza come to the old Great War battlefields of northern France? Not because of family connections, but because she is drawn there by the magic of Sebastian Faulks's powerful novel, Birdsong, and even more by Sebastian Faulks's glamorous Greek profile. Standing on the edge of a French field, once battered by Boche bombardment, she hears a voice behind her: "You're English, aren't you?" Her heart jumps. No, it's not Faulks, but a TV researcher called Ken who has come to explore the possibility of turning Birdsong into television drama. Stick with Ken, her heart tells her, and one day it will lead to the long-awaited meeting with Faulks. FIRM FRIENDS

by Gail Hardwick

"IT'S A GREAT mistake ever having let women in the Navy," said Captain Green-

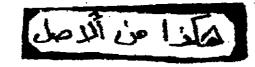
haugh to Petty Officer Tim "Kim" Whitlow. "Fluttering of eyelasbes, turn of a pretty ankie - things like that get out of all proportion to the average man when he's out at sea."

"It isn't eyelashes and ankles that the average man is after," said Petty Officer Tim "Kim" Whitlow. "Not that I have ever considered you an average man,

To his amazement, Whitlow put his hand gently on the captain's wrist. To his even greater amazement, the captain quite liked it.

"Call me Kim, sir..."

In the ensuing months, Captain Greenhaugh was to find out a great deal about himself he didn't know, a great deal about navigation he should have known already, and exactly why Whitlow was known to the crew as Pretty Officer





AARONOVITCH ON THE CLAIMS OF CITIZENSHIP

ONE NIGHT in August 1992 a fifteen year old girl, Helen Gorrie, was attacked and killed in the grounds of a community centre in the Hampshire village of Horndean. I remember the re-enactment from an edition of Crimewatch when, after several months, her killer had still not been found. And I also recall thinking then, that to lose a daughter or a sister in this way must be dreadful enough, but for no one to be brought to account for it must be unbearable. Then, over the last two days, two men in their late twenties have been arrested in connection with the six year old crime, as a result - police have said - of "developments in DNA testing". At the time of writing they have not been charged.

Yesterday's meeting between Home Office ministers and Peter Gammon, president of the Police Superintendent's Association, to discuss the latter's call for the establishment of a national DNA database was completely coincidental. Almost any week brings a crop of DNA stories, as the wonder technology sorts out some old mystery, or brings some vicious criminal to book. And Superintendent Gammon (what a reassuring name for a top cop. Is there, by any chance, a sidekick called Sergeant Spinnidge?) was not demanding immediate compulsory testing for all citizens just yet, but merely asking that we now discuss voluntary testing. So that's all

Or maybe it's not. The trouble for civil libertarians is that the police are - quite understandably - always after some new thing that would enhance their own powers and, by implication, reduce ours. They've just gotta have new sprays, longer batons and greater course, volunteer at once. Wouldn't you? All freedom to kick down the doors of malefactors. Who wants national identity cards? Why, they do. Who wants to get their hands on our DNA? They do.

Thus the unwillingness of the civil rights organisation Liberty to digest even the smallest piece of Gammon, "This proposal," they thundered (in the nicest possible way), "represents part of a drift towards policing by co-zenship. There are, of course, those who want ercion and away from our long tradition of not to vote, not to attend school concerts, not policing by consent. A proposal like this is unbalanced, misguided and wrong."

And for why? Argument one is the classic "thin end of the wedge". A voluntary scheme could not work, Liberty says, because not enough people would take part. Its existence and failure would therefore be likely to create pressure for a compulsory one. We would end up being prosecuted for failing to give the local bobby an on-the-spot DNA nuscule risk to our own freedoms was well

Secondly, because - compulsory or voluntary - the use of such a database somehow implicates thousands of innocent people in a crime, simply because of their physical proximity to its occurrence. Though there is nothing to connect us to any wrong-doing, our most vital statistics will be given the once-over by eager policepersons, just in case. This is held to invert the natural law of investigation, where you are given the once-over because there is some reason to

Liberty might have added two more objections: the risk of "planted" evidence, and the limitations of DNA testing in settling complex issues of detection. An example of the latter occurred at the weekend, when a skull - discovered in 1972 under some Berlin ruins - was proved to be that of Hitler's charmless deputy, Martin Bormann. This proof was supposed to put to rest persistent (if tedious) rumours of the horrible man's survival after

But no. Conspiracists merely incorporated the new finding into their existing theory, which was that Bormann was spirited out of Germany alive in 1945, that his signature was used to get at Hitler's private Swiss bank account, and that the odious little man then spent ten years in Reigate (he deserved at least thirty), before being allowed to go to Paraguay, where he eventually died. So now they believe that his skull was later dug up, brought back and "planted" in Berlin by some intelligence johnnies, so as to cover their nasty tracks. Case not closed.

Well, what do we think of these reasons? Myself, I don't buy the thin edge stuff. Whereas I can quite easily see why a national voluntary ID card would soon effectively become compulsory - as more and more companies and agencies required its use for their own purposes - the same can hardly be true of DNA tests. There just aren't that many situations where a DNA profile is particularly useful: you can even get into the Canary Wharf Tower without one. So, if and when Mr Gammon's successors argue for a statutory scheme, then that's the time to raise the standard and

Which brings me to my second problem with the libertarian argument. It may be a failure of imagination on my part, but why should it bother me being automatically screened for crimes that have taken place in my neighbourhood? Were a terrible murder to be committed down the road, and the police were to ask for local men to be tested. I would, of a database would do is to circumvent a whole lot of pleading by the local fuzz, and save a lot of time. And, sure, there is the danger of forensic fraud, but the scope for that is surely no greater than it is now, under the current arrangements. Oh, and there'll always be conspiracists.

to buy the Big Issue, not to claim social security - who value their not-ness above everything. That is their right, and I don't have an argument with them. But, for most of us, it isn't like that. We willingly carry donor cards, give blood and run tombola stalls. And if we could, in any way, spare families like that of Helen Gorrie as much as one more day's suffering, then we would. And think that the mi-

To me it's a bit like other aspects of citi-

Everyone's nightmare: when Tony Blair and friends drop by for a photo-op

JOHN WALSH



ver wondered what goes on behind the scenes at a Prime Ministerial photo-opportunity? Andrew and Alison Brownlee used to wonder; now they know for sure. They run Calloo! Callay!, a cafe-and-crèche facility designed to raise the spirits of shagged-out parents in Altrincham, Cheshire - and, apparently, the morale of drooping heads of state in Downing Street. For it was to their cafe that Tony and Cherie Blair made their way last week. It was a one-hour visit that hit the Brownlees like an Oklahoma

"One of the local councillors visited the cafe and presumably liked it because she came back with lots of New Labour men in black suits to check us out," said Andrew. Operation Jabberwocky was on. The suits warned the Brownlees not to tell anyone about the presidential visit, on pain of losing the gig to some other Cheshire eaterie. They also decided to close the cafe to the public, "... and two hours before the Blairs were due, the place was full of spin doctors with mobile phones, telling me where to move the furniture." Mr Brownlee, a vision of proprietorial efficiency in his new lime-green shirt, was instruct-

ed to hump tables, chairs and even the painted tree on which the management hang children's toys. Put that there. Move that over here. "They seemed to be battling with each other to establish who was in charge," said the put-upon Andrew. "It was like the scene in Alice in Wonderland, where the soldiers paint the palace roses red before the Queen arrives."

Shortly before the Blairs got there, someone mislaid the key to the staff locker. The security police whinnied like thoroughbreds. It was like the



ered the Corot was missing. "Did they think we'd been stockpiling kalashnikovs in there?" wondered Alison. She and her husband had spent the morning cleaning the cafe from top to bottom, and had finally thrown the last bits of junk into the cupboard under the stairs which doubles as the manager's

The children grew tired of waiting, "So where is he then," demanded Imogen, three, "this Prime Mister?" Right on cue. the Blairs walked in, at the centre of a mobile phalanx of suits, a hydra-headed, twentylegged triffid. Blair looked around the spotless room. Was there a place he could go to be briefed and miked up? How about that room over there? To Alison's horror, he disappeared into the junk-crammed cupboard, to be groomed and primped amid the debris of toys and cutlery.

A battered PM reappeared. "Hi," he said. "Any chance of a cup of tea?" It was the cue for an explosion of activity. A dozen New Labour men scrambled for the bar. When even went behind the bar to help boil the water. Mr Blair's modest request was repeated several times at increasing volume, like clerks of the court summoning witnesses. At least one man urgently confided the words, "PM has ordered one

mused barman surveyed the supplicating hands. "Right then," he said, "I make that eleven teas so far ..." No, they corrected him. Just the one.

The Blairs were there because the cafe is a nice, bright family place in a nice, busy market street in Altrincham where the nice local Trafford council is a former Conservative stronghold that went staunchly Labour a while back, and thus represents, by synechdoche, the whole nation a year

ago. A pity nobody seemed to notice that the town itself - the constituency of Altrincham and Sale West - has a Conservative MP, Graham Brady, and is one of few places that didn't swing to Labour at the last election. But the event passed off

Louvre just after they discov- rea" into his Nokia 500. The be- happily, the cafe was on a dozen front pages next day, and life returned to normal. Rather quickly, as a matter of fact. As the PM departed with press pack, photographers, spin doctors and autograph hunters in tow, and the proprietors surveyed the silent, suddenly-deserted cafe, a customer walked

> "Is there anything going on here?" he asked. Andrew looked at his expectant face the face of an ordinary man. wondering if he too could be touched, just briefly, by the Hand of History - and said. "Sorry. The Prime Minister's just left." "No", said the customer, "I mean, are you serving lunch yet?"

> t's the final game of the football season on Saturday and I'm concerned about the Curse of the Credit Sequence on BBC's Match of the Day. Every Saturday night, the programme starts with a succession of images featuring the finest feet in the kingdom doing their stuff. But almost all the footballers pictured have been rabbit-punched by Fate at some point in the season: Roy Keane of Manchester United was injured last September and hasn't played since; Robbie Fowler, the Liverpool striker, hurt his leg in March and won't be in the English World Cup team, any more than will

Les Ferdinand of Spurs; Chelsea's Franco Zola is injured and will probably not make the Italian world squad; and Alan Shearer, while only an Act of God could keep him out of the England team, may yet be charged with bringing the game into disrepute by kicking Neil Lennon of Leicester City in the face a couple of weeks ago. Not quite a band of heroes, is it? The only one unscathed by the MOTD curse is David Seaman, the saintly Arsenal and England goalkeeper - though his flirtation with Hugo Boss suits and dark glasses last week made him look

more like a retired Sicilian enforcer than the saviour of his

t is with great reluctance that I reproduce this pic-Lture of a naked woman in these hallowed pages. But, as the lady berself explains, there's nothing trashy or vulgar about it. It is Elizabeth Wurtzel, author of Prozac Nation, freelance polemicist and all-round Bit of a Handful, who appears undraped on the cover [below left] of her new book Bitch in order to show (she says) "that women should have it both ways - they should be able to flaunt their sexuality and be taken seriously". Ms Wurtzel clearly longs to be taken as a more slinky version of Camille Paglia. Her book is subtitled "In Praise of Difficult Women" and complains about the treatment visited by patriarchal customs etc upon badly-behaved dames from Delilah to Diana.

In two weeks' time, you'll see Ms Wurtzel spreadeagled across every organ in the UK, dilating upon power, sex. intelligence and male hatred with all the fluency you expect from a Manhattan opportunist with a \$500,000 advance. A shame then that the most urgent question being asked by her fellow New York intellectuals is: does she actually possess nipples? The fact that they seem to have been airbrushed out of the cover picture (voices complain) doesn't say much for her brave stand for sexual honesty. But the question is calculatedly reductive. Some literary types are treating Ms Wurtzel's impassioned 424-page diatribe with disrespect. James Woolcot, the acidulous Vanity Fair critic. when asked his opinion, said: "She should just have called it What I Think About Stuff. ... Not much chance of a followup, Bastard: In Praise of Horrible Men, I'm afraid.

Bill Clinton could look to the UK for a human rights lesson

Rupert Cornwell celebrates the first birthday of Robin Cook's ethical foreign policy

. -. : 2 - -

NEXT WEEK marks an anniversary. Labour's "ethical foreign policy" will be exactly a year old, and worth a small celebration. For this particular concept of advancing human rights has not, as widely predicted, collapsed in a heap of hypocrisy or fatuity. Indeed, it's not looking bad at all - certainly in comparison with the perfor-

mance on the other side of the

Take China, admittedly always a tricky case. A policy of substituting public hectoring with private pressure is one thing. But quite another is President Clinton's agreement that the welcome ceremony for his visit to China next month should be held in Tiananmen Square. Will he use his words at the place whose name is shorthand for China's view of human rights, to remind his hosts of their failings? Will there be even a small note of disapproval over China's behaviour in Tibet, the acid test of its human rights performance? Don't hold your breath - at least if the Washington Post's account of a White House visit by Wei Jingsheng. the Chinese dissident, is anything to go by.

forth about the importance of human rights, when his thoughts were rudely interrupted by the arrival of Sandy Berger, his national security adviser, who reminded him of billions of dollars of outstanding US contracts with Peking. At which point Mr Clinton delivered a dollop of trademark fudge to Mr Wei: "We are concerned about trade, but we are much more concerned about human rights." It sounds fine, but the subtext is clear. The business of America remains

Or take another beliwether human rights issue, the proposed permanent International Criminal Court, under the auspices of the UN. The expected creation of a such a court

The President was holding later this year could be a milestone in the struggle for human rights - but the key word is "could". For everything depends on the power vested in the body, and the US is insisting on the right to veto individual cases, on the grounds that American peacekeepers might otherwise be subject to frivolous prosecution. But a US veto would mean a veto for all Security Council members - certainly for its five permanent members. And could anyone imagine, say, China permitting a trial of its one-time protege Pol Pot? If the US has its way, some crimes against humanity will simply slip through the net.

Much scepticism has been voiced over the "ethical foreign policy", and many holes picked in it, notably the allegedly

over-gentle treatment of the likes of Saudi Arabia and Indonesia. But the language is right, and the project, more or less, is holding. A year on, human rights organisations still give Robin Cook the benefit of the doubt, "Yes, we'd like to see more contracts actually cancelled, and development aid programmes more closely tied to human rights," is the reaction, "but don't write the whole thing off. Behind the scenes there's some very interesting stuff going on." Not least interesting is Britain's belief - at direct odds with the US - that the international criminal court, not governments, should decide which cases to bring, to ensure its in-

dependence. Britain too appears to see

more clearly the chance offered by the Asian financial crisis, which has borne hardest on some of the countries most resistant to reason on human rights. In Indonesia this week, Gordon Brown sounded exactly the right note, arguing that "every economic reform programme must have a social element ... in the context of respect for individual (read 'human') rights." In other words, that the International Monetary Fund, whose support is vital for the economic recovery of these countries, could be a crucial force not merely for financial reform and open markets, but explicitly for human rights as well. If that argument could be impressed upon Washington and others, that would be a coup indeed.

TOOK OUT:

House valet

THE TORIES were pleading poverty in front of the Niall Committee yesterday during its hearings on party funding. First Gillian Shephard, shadow leader of the House, appeared; she was followed by Lord Cranborne, Leader of the Opposition in the House of Lords, elegantly dressed in a blue suit, silk tie and natty yellow bose. Some smug onlookers chuckled at what they perceived as the irony of the resplendent Viscount testifying to his party's penury. Then he crossed his legs. Clearly visible in the material of the heel of each sock was a large threadbare chasm. Pandora wonders if the noble Lord, always well dressed for every occasion, could have asked his tailor to run up a "distressed" pair just for this committee appearance?

Missing ring

The evidence is mounting: Robin Cook is not a New Man. Since his Tumbridge Wells registry office wedding to Gaynor, the Foreign Secretary has conspicuously not been seen wearing a wedding band.

Tongue-twister

How do you pronounce "Wim Duisenberg" - the name of the Duichman who, after a diplomatic brawl this weekend, was appointed head of the European Central Bank? Yesterday Tony Blair tried two different approaches. First, it was "Doo-zenberg", then it became "Doy-zenberg". MP William Cash has been calling the distinguished banker "Dwee-zenberg". Now Pandora has contacted a a story about visiting a nursery ever had an affair with anyone?" she needs.

PANDORA

friend in the land of Gouda and wooden shoes for the absolutely definitive rendition. Sorry, Tony and Bill, but you weren't even close. It's "Dow-zen-

joke abuse

Wanted; a new joke writer for David Blunkett. The Secretary of State for Education has a lively sense of humonr, often joking at his own expense. Yesterday, for example, speaking to a group of pre-school educators at London's Mermaid Theatre, he told

school and having to sit down on a tiny chair. Turning on his warmest paternal charm, he put his arm around one child and asked her age. "Twenty-four," was the answer. That was funny, Dave, the first six times they heard it. But the pre-school circuit is a tough one so you'd better find a new joke.

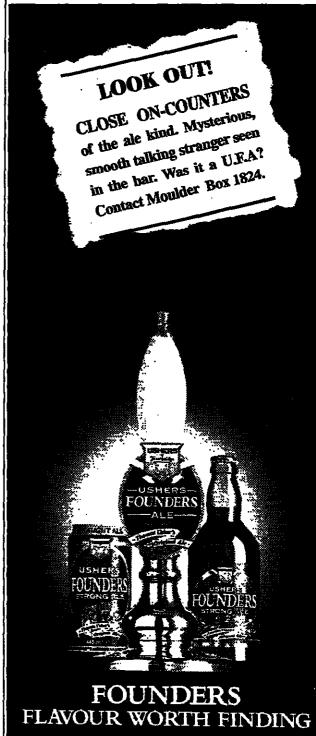
First comic

Why do some American presidents and their wives shine so much more brightly once they've left the White House? Remember the awkward preppy President George Bush and Monday, Mrs Bush revealed a new stand-up comic side to her personality. "How come nobody thought I

asked an audience in New York. "When George was President, a lot of people thought I looked like his mother - or George Washington."



his dowdy First Lady Barbara? On Pandora wonders if Hilary Clinton will start cracking self-deprecatory jokes once she leaves Washington. Surely she's got all the material she



Checking out the Sainsbury years

Sainsbury swaps food for politics

By Nigel Cope Associate City Editor

THE CITY reacted with astonishment yesterday to the news that Lord Sainsbury of Turville is to retire from the Sainsbury's supermarket business in September to pursue a career as a working peer. The decision will see the Sainsbury's family relinquish leadership of the business after almost 130 years. Dino Adriano will remain as chief executive while George Bull, head of the Diageo drinks group, has been appointed non-executive chair-

Lord Sainsbury said he felt the ground had been well prepared for his departure after six years at the helm. He said he business and a public company. had been required to make the Having one or more Sainsdecision last October as to whether or not he wanted to be a working peer and added that the Sainsbury's family, which controls 40 per cent of the shares, would remain "committed shareholders".

However, City analysts said they were surprised by the timing. One said: "I certainly had no idea this was on the horizon. You could look at the decision to promote Dino Adriano to chief executive a while back as trailing this but I had expected the move to be versity for Industry, a new some years away."

Sainsbury's shares closed 22.5p higher at 502.5p as the market reacted positively to the news that the family is to

Marsh, food retail analyst at Charterhouse Tilney said: "The market has viewed the news as positive. For a long time there has been a perception that the family involvement has held back the company strategy. Now we could see a shift."

could include less emphasis on America, where results have been poor. "It would be an opportunity to review the business and, if things do not improve there, I would not be surprised if they decide to sell

Verdict, the retail consultants, the change at the top. "I don't think it matters that much. Sainsbury's is an enormous burys on the board is just a relic of history. What is left is a very capable management team."

Lord Sainsbury has been

Lord Sainsbury expressed some sadness about the severing of the family tie but said he was looking forward to his new role as chairman of the Uni-Government initiative to help people who leave school without the prospect further education. There is a sense of excitement at the prospect of take a back seat. Andrew something new." He pointed

Another said the changes

it," the analyst said. However, Clive Vaughan at played down the significance of

under pressure for several years as the company lost ground to Tesco, was forced into a U-turn on loyalty cards and issued its first profits warning in 25 years as a public company.

Sainsbury shares against FTSE100, rebased to 1/11/92 O Started at Sainsbury's in 1963 aged 23, promoted by the board in 1966. O 1973 – finance director then deputy chairman, took top job le 1992.

A quiet, shy man, he is known for a democratic and inclusive approach. O In 1992 Sainsbury was in the ascendant over Tesco in market strater. O Asda was on the brink of collapse but had just appointed Archie Norman Life soon grew tougher for Sainsbury's as Tesco-knocked Sainsbury's off its perch as the UK's number one grocer and Asda continued to O in the 1980s Started Homebase DIY chain, bought minority O Under Lord Sainsbury the company acquired a 17 per cent stake in Giant Foods of America Bought the Texas Homecare chain from Ladbruke. Opened stores in Northern Ireland and launched Sainsbury's Bank.

out the growth in the business, saying when he joined in 1963 it had profits of £2m on sales of £79m. At that time, the head office in Stamford Street on London's South Bank was also the distribution centre and a cheese shop. Now Sainsbury's has profits of £728m on sales of £15.5bn. "To have played a part in that growth has been tremen-

Although he has often looked uncomfortable in the corporate spotlight he denied he

business by a sense of duty. "You have to be a bit wet not to take up the challenge. To have that kind of opportunity and to turn it down would seem rather odd."

He continued: "I would not have done this if a good management team had not been in place. What is important is that the value and standards of

Sainsbury's will continue." He was speaking as Sainsbury's reported a 12 per cent

had felt driven to join the family increase in pre-tax profits to £728m. Like-for-like sales rose by 3.4 per cent in the year and are up by 2.8 per cent in current

> Sainsbury's said its market share increased from 12.7 per cent to 12.9 per cent in the year. However, it still lags Tesco by some distance and its sales growth is far slower.

> The company announced plans to create 5.000 new jobs this year with 18 new stores openings. These will include

three new smaller-format stores under the name Sainsbury's Local The first of these branches, which follow the success of Tesco Metro, will open on the Fulham Palace Road in London later this year. Homebase, the DIY chain,

saw operating profits triple though the kitchens business lost £5m in the year. In the United States, profits were hit by the impact of a strike and losses in Connecticut.

Shares soar on prospect of \$80bn deal

Daimler and Chrysler in merger talks,

By Michael Harrison in London David Usborne in New York and Imre Karacs in Bonn

DAIMLER-BENZ and Chrysler set the automotive industry alight vesterday after confirming they were in merger talks to create the world's fifth largest car producer with sales of \$130bn (£78bn) and a market capitalisation of \$80bn.

A combination of Daimler, Germany's second biggest car group, and Chrysler, number three in the US, would bring together marques such as the Mercedes S-Class, the Jeep and Dodge Viper sports car and would pose a serious competitive threat to BMW and Volks-

The merged company would sell 3.9 million cars and light trucks a year and have automotive turnover of \$114bn, putting it within reach of the third and fourth biggest players, Toyota and Volkswagen.

The boards of the respective companies were meeting in Stuttgart and Detroit last night to discuss the merger after their shares soared earlier in the day on news of the potential deal.

Both companies cautioned that no definitive agreement had yet been signed, nor was there any assurance that such a deal would be reached.

If the talks succeed, Daimler, which is twice the size of Chrysler and also owns aerospace, rail and electronics interests, would acquire the US car maker through an exchange of shares. The deal would value Chrysler at \$35bn. compared with a market capitalisation of \$27bn before the

Although essentially a German takeover, there were re-Schrempp, the Daimler chairman, and Robert Eaton, the Chrsyler chairman, would become joint chief executives.

Industry experts gave the proposed deal an overwhelming thumbs-up, pointing out the two companies had very little product or geographic overlap. Garel Rhys, director of the Centre for Automotive Industry Research at Cardiff University Business School, said: This would be an alliance where the pluses easily outweigh the minuses. Mercedes has lagged behind its German rivals and this deal would allow it to leap Bob Beaman-style ahead

of them." Analysts said a combination of Mercedes' top-of-therange saloons with Chrysler's strength in 4x4, utility and pickup vehicles could give it an edge over the likes of BMW and enable the two companies to lever off each other's geographic strengths. Mercedes would get improved access to the US

Chrysler, which has little presence in Europe after it pulled out of the market 20 years ago, would be able to use Mercedes distribution channels to expand sales of its Jeep Grand Cherokee and Voyager range.

News of the negotiations boosted shares in Chrysler in early New York trading yesterday. The other two main car manufacturers in the US, Ford and General Motors, also saw their stocks rise. At mid-morning, Chrysler was up \$5.75 to

Daimler-Benz shares also soared on the Frankfurt exchange by over 9 per cent, before they settled at DM192.90. up 7.4 per cent.

TOU

regi

US analysts welcomed the prospect of a merger, in particular as a means of boosting Chrysler's international presence as well as its position in the US, where its market share dipped last year to 16 per cent, behind General Motors and Ford. Its strength lies in utility and off-road vehicles with cars accounting for just a third of production

"To some extent it is a handin-glove fit", said analyst Scott Merlis of Merlis Automotive International. "I would say it looks like a match made in heaven."

There was a mixed reaction from shocked Chrysler workers sterday. Many expressed anxiety about the company essentially falling into foreign hands and the prospect of possible job cuts.

Daimler, with 300,000 employees and a turnover of DM124bn (£42bn), is Germany's largest industrial conglomerate with 70 per cent of its sales from cars, trucks and buses. It is also a member of the Eurofighter and Airbus jet consortia and makes trains through the Adtranz joint venture v ABB.

Last year, the group recorded a profit of DM4.3bn. Despite a 🛴 series of reorganisations in which Mercedes-Benz lost its autonomy, the car-making division remains the group's flagship and accounts for the lion's share of

group profits. Although Mercedes trades OB its upper-crust appeal, it has lately been expanding into the sub-compact market with the A-Class and its upcoming mini

Smart car. The merger would complete a remarkable turn-around for a group that recorded an operating loss of nearly DM6bn in 1995. Jürgen Schrempp, chairman of Daimler-Benz, made severe cuts in the company's operation in 1996, ditching its investment in the aircraft manu-

facturer Fokker, among others. A restructuring programme has put paid to thousands of jobs. Some of the group's divisions, notably the aeronautics arm Dasa, remain in the red.

MP winds

rofits slid

S invests

Speeding ahead Global unit sales, millions, 1997 GM 6.94 Ford Tovota Fiat 2.83 Peugeot Citroen 2.11

Barclays' new brand takes on Virgin and the supermarkets

By Lea Paterson and Nic Ciccuti

BARCLAYS yesterday attempted to throw off its traditional banking image and tackle Richard Branson's Virgin and the supermarket banks head-on with the launch of a new financial services company, called "b2".

The new venture is aimed at the 5.5 million UK savers who have traditionally shied away from the stock market.

b2's first product the "Advanced Savings Account" - is linked to the stock market, but guarantees customers will not lose their savings in the event of a market crash.

But calculations show that the cost of the guarantee is so great that stock market growth of 45 per cent over three years would only deliver annual returns of about 8.2 per cent, barely better than some building society investment bonds.

Mark Bogard, managing director of b², said: "Many people feel that they could make more of their money than in the building society. But they simply don't feel confident or comfortable enough to do anything about it. b-will bridge the gap between savings and investing for ordinary savers."

Yesterday in the markets

Barclays said the brand b² was an attempt to combine the concepts of safety and security traditionally associated with the Barclays brand with the "newness and innovation conjured up by recent entrants". In recent months, the high street banks have had to cope with an aggressive assault on their core saving markets from new entrants such as Virgin and the

supermarkets. The company said that any similarity between b² and V2, the new Virgin record label was "entirely coincidental". The bank added that neither itself nor Budgens, the supermarket, were concerned by similarities between the brand names of

their services. Last month, Budgens rebranded its 7-11 stores "b2". Martin Taylor, Barclays'

chief executive, said his company was "trying to change the way people save". He added "this will be a very important market for us".

City experts were more cynical about Barclays' latest move, saying it was "good PR" but not necessarily good for

b²'s advanced saving account requires a minimum investment of £500, or £50 per month. Savers can take "payment holidays" and may withdraw their money at any time. The account is "PEP-able" and will evolve to fit the criteria of the government's new Individual Savings Account (ISA).

Mr Taylor said the new company "drew on the skills and strength from around the Barclays Group". Barclays Global Investors will manage be's funds, and Barclays Capital will look after the equity de-

rivatives operation. b2 is aimed at an audience modern, "can-do" customers who are bored by old-fashioned, fuddy-duddy investment

Yet shorn of its 30-some-

The venture is aimed at savers who have shied away from the stock market

thing radical chic, the clever imagery, the daring typography and trendy logo, the new Advanced Savings Account (ASA) is an old idea with a few fresh bells and whistles.

It is a guaranteed stock market investment product, investing in the FT-SE 100 share index. The company is targeting former building society savers who want the same ease of access coupled with a level of se-

curity, but with minimum risks. The amount savers get back at the end of either a three, five or seven-year investment period in the ASA is guaranteed, even if share prices fall. If the stock market rises, savers of self-perceived thrusting, gain most of that upside, including dividend income. Derivatives are used to underpin

> this guarantee. Investors seduced by the seemingly limitless opportunities of equity market growth should also remember that any potential upside is limited to about 86 per cent of their investment. The rest of their money is used to pay for the guarantees that protect them against any downside. Over shorter periods, stock markets have delivered worse returns than building societies.

> In this, as in many other respects, the ASA is similar to most other guaranteed investment products. But there are a number of differences, including easier access to funds and the possibility of payment holidays without penalty. Outlook, page 23

Merger by Schol gives chairman a fourth fortune

By Andrew Yates

SCHOLL, the company famous for producing anything from wooden sandals to corn plasters designed to soothe weary feet, yesterday announced a £691m merger with Seton Healthcare. Britain's largest supplier of continence treatments. It also emerged that Stuart

Wallis, Scholl non-executive chairman, is to make his fourth fortune in three years. He stands to receive £1m from Scholl after the merger is completed as part of an incentive plan. The deal caps a busy few months for Mr Wallis. He was instrumental in floating LLP, publisher of Lloyd's List, and has shares worth more than £2m in the group. He also made a substantial sum this year for his role of selling Sheffield Forgemasters, the engineering group which was embroiled in the Iraqi supergun scandal. His recent gains come on top of the £2.5m he is said to have made when Fisons, the drugs group, was bought by

Mr Wallis will retain his £100,000-a-year position at the merged healthcare group. Scholl's other directors also

Rhone Poulenc in 1995.

options to be crystallised on completion of the deal. The merger will lead to up to 280 job losses and the closure of Scholl's head office in Luton, saving millions of pounds for the combined group.

stand to make hundreds of

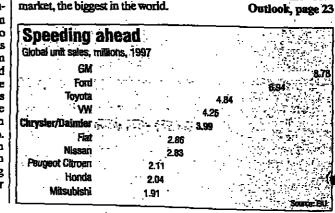
thousands of pounds from share

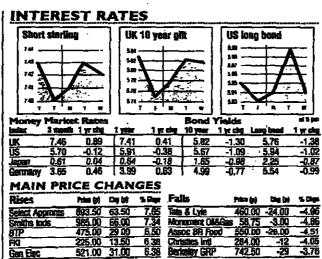
Seton produces products such as Deep Heat. Woodward's gripe water. Meltis cough mixtures, head lice treatments and bandages. The fastexpanding group has recently bought Resolve, the hangover cure, and ThackrayCare, UK

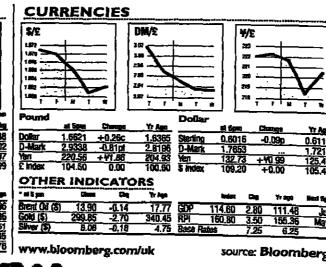
market leader in urinary bags.

Seton, with most of its busi-

ness in the UK, plans to use Scholl's international network to expand overseas. The combined group, to be called Seton Scholl Healthcare is likely to look for further acquisitions and could have another £150m at its disposal. It will be the third largest supplier of over the counter products to pharmacies in the UK. Shares in Seton rose 68.5p to 448.5p and those in Scholl jumped 45p to 708.5p. Seton shareholders will own 53.1 percent of the group with Scholl shareholders receiving 63.88 new Seton shares for every 100 shares they hold.

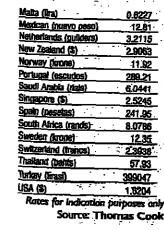






Austria (schilling) 20.04 58.88 Careda (S) 2.3280 <u>Cyprus (pounds)</u> 0.8339 10.94 8.7324 France (francs) 9.5688 Germany (marks) 2.8620 493.16 Hang Kong (5) 12,46 ireland (punts) 1.1321 incian (rupees 60,63 <u>Israel (shekels)</u> 5.6743 taly (lira) 2826 <u>Japan</u> (yen) <u>215.12</u>

TOURIST RATES



Sainsbury is moving in the right direction



OUTLOOK ON THE DECISION TO CUT FAMILY TIES, THE SMALL PRINT WITH BARCLAYS' NEW PRODUCT, AND THE LONG ROAD AHEAD FOR CHRYSLER AND DAIMLER-BENZ

about it, Dino Adriano, the chief executive. is happy about it, and perhaps most important of all, the City is happy about it. In the end it hardly seems to matter whether Lord Sainsbury was persuaded to go or, as he insists, is going of his own accord. Whatever the case, he never looked comfortable as head of the family dynasty. His style was a complete contrast to his famously autocratic uncle, John Sainsbury, and it was always hard to avoid the impression that he was there

more out of a sense of duty than ambition. That said, it ought to be added that David Sainsbury was never a no-hoper, third-generation, chinless wonder of a manager. His reign has not been a conspicuous success, but then he was unlucky to step into the hot seat just as the company was in any case coming seriously off the boil. In private moments, he would say that it was sometimes a burden having your name over the door. In his five and half years at the helm, Sainsbury's has under-performed the market by quite a hit and been overtaken convincingly by its

There were certainly mistakes. Lord Sainsbury dismissed loyalty cards as little more than "electronic Green Shield stamps"

DAVID SAINSBURY is happy about it, George Bull, the new chairman, is happy proved a spectacular success at Tesco. The company avoided urban mini-stores like Tesco Metros, saying they would not be profitable. Several years later it is testing its own smaller stores called Sainsbury's Local.

All the same, Sainsbury's does now seem to have turned the corner and David Sainsbury can take the credit for that. Had he left last autumn when he first contemplated the move, the judgement of history would have been a harsh one. As it is, he seems to be leaving the ship in relatively good order. His decision to sever the family link with management is also undoubtedly the right one. Marks & Spencer and Tesco flourished after their family ties were cut. With its strong brand name there is no reason why Sainsbury's cannot make it a hat trick.

B squared equals nothing new

SHOULD we call it B two, B to the power of two, or B squared? B two it is, but apparently the name has to be written in the logo as b2, since Budgens has already rechristened as b2 its Seven Eleven chain of convenience stores. The fact that this

should be more of a talking point than the product itself tells you all you need to know

On the face of it, this looks like a relatively dever and attractive savings product for which there should be a quite considerable demand, but actually it's not that at all. Certainly it won't change the face of the British savings market, nor is it likely to make any impact on Barclays' profits. There is already a plethora of "guaranteed" products on the market. This one doesn't look so different from the rest of them. If anything, the likely returns are less generous. As for the marketing blurb that accompanied the launch, some of it is positively insulting for

anyone who knows about these things. Take this. The press release tells us that the 4 million people in Britain with more than £1,000 in a restricted-access savings account would have earnt 10 times as much on their money last year by sticking it in the stock market than by leaving it where it was. Well strike a light! We'd all be rich by now if we'd known the stock market was going to rise by as much as it has.

It's easy to mock, isn't it, and despite the hype, Barclays may be tapping into a real demand here. This is similar to the demand that has swelled the American mutuals to

such extraordinary levels in recent years the slow dawning realisation by Jo Six-pack that since his money won't earn much in the way of interest any longer he ought to stick it into the soaraway stock market, where returns of 20 per cent per annum are now a

dead cert, aren't they? There in lies the rub. By our calculations, the market needs to rise quite dramatically to yield a return on this account which is significantly higher than a traditional long term savings account. The b² account plays on fear of the bear by guaranteeing your original capital, but you would still lose out badly in real terms if the market failed to make headway during the lifetime of the product. Moreover, the risk of that happening scarcely justifies the relatively high management and hedging costs of the account. In most cases, equity investors would do better to stick their money in a traditional tracker fund.

A good fit - if the deal goes through

ONCE upon a time the idea of Mercedes parking up with the company that gave us the lemon known as the Talbot Sunbeam

would have sent shivers down the spine in the Fatherland. But history has moved on since 1979 when Chrysler beat its ignominious retreat from Europe, leaving the British government to pick up the pieces at Linwood.

Twenty years on, Chrysler and Daimler-Benz make rather a good fit. The Americans nowadays make more light trucks than cars and their Jeep Grand Cherokees, Voyagers and Ram pick-ups would not look out of place on the forecourt alongside the Merc S-Class. There would be no messy bustups over whose models to ditch - the issue that killed off the Ford-Fiat merger. Nor, despite the understandable apprehension in Michigan, would there be any obvious casualties among the combined workforce.

For the same reasons, there would be limited opportunities for cost savings, making this more of a marketing merger than an industrial alliance. But, as both companies were keen to point out yesterday, no agreement has yet been signed and egos could still get in the way despite the bizarre idea of making Jürgen Schrempp and Robert Eaton co-chief execs. Both will be calculating the other won't be around for long but both will be equally conscious they could be the loser. This is not yet a done deal.

Tough new regime for markets

By Andrew Verity

THE FINANCIAL Services Authority will have the power to levy unlimited fines on insider dealers and anyone who engages in market abuse, the Government announced yesterday.

In a complete revamp of the way regulation works, the FSA will be able to take civil action against anyone who abuses financial markets - not just those who are members of an official regulator.

Anyone who engages in share ramps, false trades or attempts to corner the market will be open to civil action under a universal Code of Market Conduct. ...

Wives of directors or even under the code, which will spell out what is meant by unacceptable market behaviour.

Until now, regulators have often been powerless to pursue suspected market abuse which stops short of insider trading. The new powers will allow the FSA to avoid the lengthy and often cumbersome process of going to the courts.

Alistair Darling, chief secretary to the Treasury, said: "It

is essential that the financial markets are protected from abuse. Damage to the markets damages the economy as a whole. For the first time, the regulator will have a set of coherent and comprehensive civil powers in this area."

The City's super-regulator will also have the power to prosecute insider dealers as criminals, a job usually reserved for the Department of Trade and Industry and the Crown Prosecution Service. Money-launderers will also come within its scope.

The new powers will form part of the Financial Regulation Reform Bill, to come into force in 1999. A draft version of the Bill will be published in the

there will be an independent tribunal to consider appeals against FSA decisions. The tribunal will be part of the courts system, independent of the FSA.

Howard Davies, chairman of the FSA, said the proposal to create a new civil regime was in response to concerns about the inadequacies of the current system. The FSA would shortly consult market participants on a draft code of market conduct.

Successionsings

In language to the control of the co THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF TH



call from just on selected calls at selected how your business can succeed with B

DTI report prompts Fraud Office inquiry into Matbro

THE SERIOUS Fraud Office is to investigate the Matbro subsidiary of Belfast-based Powerscreen International, following a DTI report on accounting irregularities at the firm. Powerscreen, an engineering group, said on Tuesday it had retained London law firm Herbert Smith in connection with the Mathro irregularities. In January, following the discovery of the irregularities, the group said it would report a pre-tax loss of around £10m for the year ending 31 March compared with a £42.4m profit the previous year.

AMP windfall beats estimates

MORE THAN 170,000 British shareholders in AMP are set for a windfall £1,000 higher than expected, the Australian insurer confirmed yesterday. AMP yesterday released its prospectus for flotation on 15 June. Average payouts are expected to be close to £4,000, above estimates of £3,000 published in September.

'Single labour market unlikely

PREDICTIONS that the euro will mean harmonisation of pay and conditions throughout the Continent are wide of the mark, according to a report published yesterday. Despite some "equalisation" of wages for people with certain skills, there will still be formidable barriers to a "single European labour market". Writing in EMU - The Journal For Business, pay analyst David Shepherd said cultural and linguistic limitations on mobility would remain.

Profits slide at BSkyB

A JUMP in the cost of broadcasting Premier League soccer matches and rising start-up losses of joint ventures and interest costs combined to push pre-tax profits at pay television giant BSkyB down nearly 6 per cent in the first nine months of the year. The company, which is 40 per cent owned by Rupert Murdoch's News Corp, said pre-tax profits had fallen £12m to £203.3m in the nine months to 31 March on an 18 per cent rise in turnover.

US invests £7.6bn in Europe

AMERICAN companies bought a record number of groups based in the European Union in the first quarter of 1998 - 198, worth a combined £7.6bn. The figures, from Acquisitions Monthly magazine, included the pending £4.3bn takeover of Energy Group by Texas Utilities.

Passenger load dips at BA

BRITISH AIRWAYS' passenger load factor fell 28 per cent in April from a year earlier to 68.8 per cent as mainline scheduled passenger traffic rose 5.7 per cent but capacity rose 10 per cent. www.bt.com

ScottishPower amasses £3bn war chest for US deal

By Michael Harrison

SCOTTISHPOWER, the energy, water and that it had up to £3bn to spend on the right

The company, which pulled out of talks to acquire a Florida electricity producer two weeks ago, said it still had a shortlist of half

American energy market.

Ian Robinson, ScottishPower's chief telecoms multi-utility, yesterday set its executive, maintained that its plans for a sights on a big US acquisition, indicating US acquisition were not a defensive move executive, maintained that its plans for a designed to ward off a takeover bid from producer in north-east Florida with 1.3 one of the US utilities circling the British

with a bridgehead into the deregulated if it created a significant return for listing last year.

ScottishPower was prepared to pay around \$5bn (£2.98bn) for Florida Progress, a vertically integrated electricity million customers. It would have raised electricity industry.

Elbn by selling off parts of Florida and He also insisted that ScottishPower funded the remaining £2bn with £1.5bn of was not under any pressure to make a big debt and a £500m share issue to American

a dozen US utilities that could provide it acquisition and said it would only do a deal investors. ScottishPower obtained a US

Mr Robinson said the deal was abandoned after two months of due diligence and talks with Florida when it became clear the acquisition would not deliver sufficient value for shareholders.

ScottishPower believes it can extract the same level of efficiency savings from a US utility as it had achieved with its UK acquisitions, Manweb and Southern Wa-

ter, where staff levels have been reduced by one-third.

In the UK, the group plans to pres ahead with its multi-utility strategy, with the aim of capturing 15 per cent of the electricity market by 2000, 12 per cent of the gas market and doubling its share of the

Scottish telecoms market to 10 per cent. Since the opening up of the gas market, it has captured 320,000 domestic customers and is in the first wave of electricity liber-

due to open to competition in September.

Electricity exports from Scotland, meanwhile, are set to increase by 50 per cent early next century with the completion of the north-south interconnector and a new link

being constructed to Northern Ireland. Pre-tax profits last year rose 15 per cent to £640m, helped by a full-year contribution from Southern Water, where savings of £120m have been achieved.

Sterling slips as rate fear recedes

By Diane Coyle Economics Editor

THE BANK of England's Monetary Policy Committee is expected to leave interest rates unchanged at the end of its twoday meeting today, with many analysts increasingly confident that there will be no further rises in the cost of borrowing.

This view held sway on the foreign exchanges, where the pound fell again. It ended down

almost a pfennig at DM2.933. There was some caution, however, as the MPC's meeting comes just ahead of next week's quarterly Inflation Report. The Bank has been considering publishing two inflation forecasts, reflecting the gap between hawks and doves on the committee over reported a decline in costs. the risk of a sudden fall in the pound which could push inflation above its 2.5 per cent target.

The MPC vote was spilt four-four in March, with Eddie George, Governor of the Bank customers as a result of passing of England, using his casting on higher costs. vote to leave rates unchanged. Minutes of April's meeting will be published next week, but ac- its recent dent from the strong cording to unconfirmed reports pound and the Asian crisis. Alone of the hawks. Charles most 60 per cent of the compa-Goodhart, switched to make it nies surveyed expect their

A survey yesterday suggesting a slight slowdown in activity in the service industries was seen as no threat to hopes that services and home demand and this month will also bring no move on rates, even though it showed that services were continuing to expand very rapidly. The index from the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply survey of purchasing managers fell to 59.1 in April from 60.3 the previous month. grinding process."

Peter Thomson, director general of CIPS, said home demand was still very strong. "The service sector, with less exposure to the exchange rate and international competition, is enjoying the benefits of the UK market."

to slower growth in new busi- service sector."

ness, down from 59.7 to 57.2 in April. Mainly due to the strong pound hitting overseas demand, this was the slowest expansion since October.

However, demand remained at a high level, with more than one in four firms reporting an increase in new business. This was twice as many as reported

The pace of growth of employment dropped last month too, but this was due to skill shortages rather than redundancies, according to the survey. Skill shortages led to inflationary pressure on wages and salaries, especially for computer and IT companies. More than one in five companies said their average costs were on the increase, six times as many as

This took the costs component of the index up from 58.2 to 58.9, its highest level for a year. One in 10 companies raised the prices they charged

Optimism in the service sec tor picked up last month after a five-three vote for no change. business to grow during the next 12 months.

The survey confirmed the contrast between the health of the weakness of manufacturers dependent on exports. Stephen Hannah, chief economist at IBJ International, said: "We will see some weakness in the manufacturing sector filter through to services as the year progresses, but it is a fairly slow-

Some City economists remained concerned about rising wage costs, saying these might yet force the Bank of England into raising interest rates at some point. Ciaran Barr of Deutsche Morgan Grenfell The modest slowdown dur- said: "I do not think this is the ing the month was mainly due start of a major downturn in the



New vistas: Preparations for the topping out of Citibank's headquarters at Canary Wharf in London Docklands yesterday

Photograph: Rui Xavier

Pressure of competition Liffe may lose US puts heat on Whitbread

SHARES in Whitbread, the brewing to leisure group, fell tious trading statement, taking is dragging down the overall the shine off a 12 per cent rise in its full-year profits.

In the year to the end of February, the group reported profits before tax and exceptional items of £354.8m, up from £316.5m. Brokers had forecast profits of between £348m and £360m.

However, the group's shares 1,060p, while shares in its rival

Bass fell 34p to 1082p. Merrill Lynch analyst Philip Hawkins said: "We have put in a small downgrade for the first time in several years, in the region of 1 to 2 per cent. The period of upgrades for Whitbread has come to an end for the time being.

"It's mainly because returns at the tail end of the es- about £460m in the coming yesterday in the wake of a cau- tate are under pressure, which number. It shows things are very competitive, especially in London."

Whitbread shares have outperformed the brewing sector by some 20 per cent over five years. There are mounting concerns in the investment community that the high levels of corporate expenditure on manwere off 2 per cent or 30p at aged pubs has become harder to recover given the number of new and aggressive competitors coupled with the risk of a down-

turn in consumer spending. Analysts estimate the industry spent £800m to £1bn last year on buying new sites or refurbishing existing pubs. It is estimated that more than half of this went into food pubs.

The group plans to spend year, a similar amount to last year, with most of the investment concentrated on the group's managed pub estate. Whitbread's 1,700 managed pub estate includes Brewers Fayre and Hogshead.

The company said it would continue to shed pubs and offlicences that underperformed at a similar rate over the coming year. It sold some 500 outlets to realise £144m in the year.

All of the group's divisions grew profits in the year. Beer improved trading profit 12 per cent to £44.6m, although total sales were lower due to falling sales of cider, wine, spirits and flavoured alcoholic drinks. Its premium lager Stella Artois increased sales by 27 per cent. | bank's business with just one

trade to Germany

By Lea Paterson

TWO large US investment houses are considering shifting all euro interest rate derivatives trade – an area Liffe has traditionally dominated - away from the London exchange to its German arch-rival.

Both Salomon Smith Barney and Chase Manhattan said yesterday there were benefits in trading on the Deutsche Terminborse (DTB), which uses electronic trading.

Rob Standing, managing director of interest rate management at Chase Manhattan in London, said the bank could switch all Euromark trading to DTB in 1999, and that it would

Salomon said it was "inefficient" to trade interest rates in an open ever, Liffe traders said imoutcry environment. Liffe has traditionally been

firmly wedded to open outcry, although recently said it hoped to introduce a "state-of-theart" electronic trading system by autumn next year. It has been engaged in a fierce battle for market share with the DTB, and has lost the bulk of the trade in the prestigious German bond (Bund) future to the German exchange.

Yesterday's news suggests Liffe's position in short-term interest rate (Sur) products, an area it has historically dominated, could be under threat. Liffe's success in the Stir market is largely due to the com-Investment column, page 26 | exchange. Simon Bowden of cannot replicate the trading of traordinary meeting on 21 May.

these products in the pit. Howprovements in electronic trading would gradually erode the benefits of open outcry

trading for Stir products. A Liffe spokesperson said he was "surprised" by the two banks' comments.

The comments will be further food for thought for Liffe's board, which met yesterday to discuss proposals for reform of the exchange. The board has already recommended a move to electronic trading, a streamlining of Liffe's management and the adoption of a "for

profit" objective. The outcome of the board's latest deliberations will be communicated to its 215 members be easier to conduct all the plexity the products - current early next week. Members will electronic trading platforms vote on these proposals at an ex-

This notice is issued in compliance with the requirements of the London Stock Exchange and appears as a matter of record only. It does not constitute an offer or an invitation to subscribe for or purchase any securities of Dreadner RCM Endowment Policy Trust 2010 plc.

Dresdner RCM Endowment Policy Trust 2010 plc

(Incorporated in England and Wales under the Companies Act 1985 with realistened number 3517206.)

Placing of 25,000,000 Ordinary Shares of 1p each at an issue price of 100p per share payable in full on application, sponsored by Merrill Lynch International

Application has been made for the Ordinary Shares to be admitted to the Official List. It is expected that admission will become effective, and that dealings in the Ordinary Shares on the London Stock Exchange will begin on 1 June 1998.

A prospectus relating to Dresdner RCM Endowment Policy Trust 2010 plc has been published. Copies may be obtained during normal business hours (Saturdays and public holidays excepted) from the date of this notice up to and including 8 May 1998 by collection only from the Company Announcements Office, London Stock Exchange, Old Broad Street, London EC2N 1HP and until 26 May 1998 from:

> Merrill Lynch International 20 Farringdon Road, London EC1M 3NH

Drescher RCM Global Investors (UK) Ltd. 10 Fenchurch Street, London EC3M 3LB

7 May 1998

House of Fraser to fight lawsuit by Linea HOUSE of Fraser, the depart- . launched its in-house brand, also would defend the lawsuit, filed

ment store group, is to fight a called Linea. legal action against it by the fashion retailer Linea. The London-based Italian fashion bou- er using the Linea name. tique has alleged its business has

The firm is seeking an injunction to stop House of Fras-

A House of Fraser by confusion in the mar- for destruction all materials remy ketplace

on 31 March. has been severely disrupted

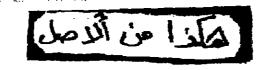
brand. In a High Court writ, Francesco Lazzaro, Lin- Linea is seeking an injunction ea's owner, said his business to stop House of Fraser using the Linea name and to offer up surrounding lating to it.

COMPAN	Y RESUL	TS		
	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Divident
Angelo Irlsh Bank (I)	JR - (-)	21.5m (13.7m)	5.41p (4.23p)	1.86p (-)
N Brown (F)	317.9m (280.47m) 41.3m (37.1m)	19.3p (17.0p)	7.5 (6 <u>.8</u> p)
BSIq® (N)	1.06bn (0.89bn)	203.3m (215.3m)	10. <u>B</u> p (11.9p)	- <u>(-)</u>
Carto (F)	86.04m (98,77m)	0.672m (0.814m)	0.52p (0.41p)	1.3p (1.3p)
Exige Properties (F)	23.20m (16.38m)	1.545m (1.066m)	3.6 (2.7p)	ni
Grantshealer (I)	23.20m (18.38m)	3.06m (0.845m)	1.95p (1.29p)	0.40 (-)
Lambert Smith (F)	42.14m (32.99m)	3.6m (1.6m)	15.5p (10.9p)	4.5p (1.6p)
J Salesbury (i')	15.50bp (14.31ba)	719m (609m)	26.1p (22.0p)	13.9p (12.3
Scottish Power (F)	3.13bn (2.95bn)	639.8m (558.4m)	41.28p (38.11p)	20.4p (18.5
Select Appointments (C	D) USD298.9m (207.9	9m) 15.92m (8.78m	1) - (-)	· (·)
\$3yle (F)	324.3m (248.6m)	9.703m (2.8m)	0.31p (3.5p)	4.66p (4.66
Tate & Lyle (I)	2.20bn (2.29bn)	76.5m (30.4m)	12.7p (4.5p)	5.3p (5.3p)
Tiens Products (F)	39.99m (102.35m)	17.17m (22.00m)	21.17p (28.17p)	12.5p (12.0p
Wilderand (F)	3.20bn (3.03bn) 3	54.8m (316.5m) \$6	i.69p (48.78p) 2	6.02p (23.1)
Willia Corroge (Q)	- (-)	43.1m (45.7m)	6.5p (7.0p)	1.75p (1.85c

DEBTS? Griffin (X) get your cashflowing 0800 34 34 35

WORRIED

ABOUT BAD



BT dials up gains on talk of bid action

MARKET REPORT



ring for BT? Shares of global telephony industry soared 29.5p to a 693p peak in often busy trading

Although the Stock Exchange's controversial order a 26.3 point loss just 30 minbook often distorts closing prices, it looked as though a rush of late orders pushed the

shares to their new high. The sudden display of interest was accompanied by stories of corporate action, including a bid for full control of the Cellnet mobile telephone operation to another ambitious overseas strike. There was even talk that, as the world's communications industry submerged national boundaries, what was once the button A of Britain's call boxes was about to collect an robust form, after their recent

This week a number of analysts have advocated BT's ing much more confident

BT was a major influence in a late Footsie rally which left Britain's major entry into the the index sporting a 5.9 points gain at 5,992.4. Underlining the volatility which followed the arrival of order-driven trading the index was nursing

> utes before the final call over. Mid and small cap shares again displayed complete indifference to the gyrations of their peers. The supporting indices resolutely advanced to

J Sainsbury's results and the change of chairman lifted the shares 22.25p to 502.25p but Whitbread's cautious comments with its figures lowered the shares 30p to 1,060p, dragging Bass down 34p to 1,082p.

The former building societies were for a time in more weakness. Alliance & Leicester led the recovery after mak-

gained 29.5p to 862p; Halifax, report. The shares are near still buying in shares, was at one time up 22p at 804p. The shares closed just 4p higher at 2,000p. 786p, illustrating the disillusionment with its buy-back programme which has so far, as expected, failed to pro-

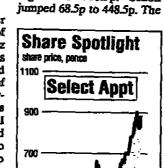
duce little in the way of benefits for its army of small shareholders. Exporters made further headway and the possibility of a deal between Daimler-Benz and Chrysler prompted gains in a host of engineering and electrical groups as theories of further potential deals sur-

faced. Smiths Industries jumped 66p to 965p; General Electric Co 31p to 521p and British Aerospace 29.5p to 532.5p. Siebe, up 46p to 1,444p and BTR, up 4.75p to 204.5p, joined in the fun.

Sugar group Tate & Lyle dropped 24p to 460p on results merits, many suggesting the noises at its shareholders but Select Appointments, the shares should be riding at meeting than had been ex-recruitments group, jumped pected. After easing fears of 63.5p to 893.5p following a

a mortgage war, its shares buoyant first-quarter trading near £700m deal should difficult time. The drugs group their year's high. However, back in 1988 they topped

> Deals continued to stir the undercard. Seton Healthcare's proposed acquisition of Scholl, famed for its foot bygiene, pushed the shares 45p higher to 708.5p. Scholl



J J A S O N D J F M A M

pushed the enlarged group into the Footsie 250 mid cap

fell 7.5p to 75.5p, equalling its

low point. An attempted Mer-

rill Lynch placing of around

125,000 shares apparently did

the damage. The shares

touched 468.75p two years

ago. They have been in decline

since the group moved out of

highest this year. Good figures

from arch rival Saint Gobain

and consolidation in the Eu-

ropean glass industry provided

ing "lifestyle" television pro-

grammes, surged 20p to 85p.

John Gunn has acquired an-

other 10,000 shares and now

has just over 5 per cent. His

buying coincides with a BBC

deal. The company and the

Beeb are launching a cookery

chairman Alan Sugar picked

up 3.5 million shares at 35.5p.

Share Price Data

Price are 1.00 4.3 24.5 380
2.50 - 2.3 305
2.50 - 2.3 305
2.50 - 3.3 15
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.3 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.0 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.0 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.0 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.0 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.0 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.0 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.0 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.0 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.0 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.0 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.0 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.0 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.0 2.5 380
2.50 - 4.0 2.5 380

169.59m. Shell Transp-Reg m. 25.02m Brit Asrospace 5.20m PKI B.84m STR B.48m Hallfax

He now has 29.8 per cent.

Amstrad rose 3p to 39.5p as

series on US television.

West 175 Enterprises, mak-

losses into profits.

the impetus.

Cliveden, the hotelier. firmed to 92.5p. The bid is expected to come in at around 115p. Jeyes, famed for its disinfectant, added 25p to 187.5p as the company revealed a bid

Pilkington, the glass maker, put on 4.5p to 136.5p, approach. Rumours of bids went the rounds. Associated British Ports rose 17p to 375p on speculation of an overseas strike and Latchways, a business support group, rose 35p to

337.5p. Glaxo Welicome lost 24p to 1,711p despite a Salomon Smith Barney estimate that the shares should be around 2,000p; Zeneca, down 22p at 2,578p, was accorded a 2,900p target.

BTP, the chemical group, jumped 29p to 475p on hopes it could enjoy some of the rewards from Pfizer's Viagra

drug.
ML Laboratories bad a

taking stock

EMERALD Energy has shrugged off the disappointment over its Chawina site in Colombia and its rig has moved to what many regard as the far more promising Gigante 1 field. Drilling is

expected to start next week. Monument Oil & Gas is investing \$7.3m and has a 14 per cent interest in Gigante 1. Its involvement could be extended to 40 per cent. Emerald's shares rose 0.5p to 6.75p. They touched 10p earlier this year. The 12month low is 4p.

HARD PRESSED Reflec, a maker of reflective ink which helps clothes glow in the dark, firmed to 6.5p after its revamping exercise was

Under new management the company has been reshaped, with costs reduced and salesmen put on a new incentive scheme. The shares once enjoyed an AIM star rating. They arrived at 40p; then stormed to almost 130p. As difficulties mounted they fell to a 6p low.

Up 2.7



rmany

DEBTS?



| Price | Cing Yild | PECode | High | Low | Stock | Price | Cing Yild | PECode | High | Low | Stock | Price | Cing Yild | PECode | High | Low | Stock | Price | Cing Yild | PECode | High | Low | Stock | Price | Cing Yild | PECode | High | Low | Stock | Price | Cing Yild | PECode | High | Low | Stock | Price | Cing Yild | PECode | High | Low | Stock | Price | Cing Yild | High | Low | Stock | Price | Cing Yild | High | Low | Stock | Price | Cing Yild | High | Low | Stock | High | Low | High | H FTSE 100 Index hour by hour Open 986.3 | 18:00 997.4 | 9:00 997.7 | Down 10.8 | 12:00 996.7 | 10:00 997.7 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 997.8 | 10:00 5974.5 Down 12.0 15:00 5967.1 Down 19.4 16:00 5972.4 Down 14.1 Class 5978.9 5960.1 5987.3 Oil Integrated 90 Mp BP BXX 800 Bureah Campl 402 302 Shall



Whitbread's spree ends

JUDGING by the weighty pack of slides David Thomas unveiled at Whitbread's press conference yesterday, you would have thought the group's chief executive planned to unveil news aplenty. But, polished as his maiden annual results performance was, the presentation produced little to keep the expectant press pack enthralled.

A few years ago Whitbread, then under Peter Jarvis, was buying everything in site. Marriott Hotels, David Lloyd leisure clubs and restaurant chains such as Café Rouge, the Dôme and Bella Pasta joined the Whitbread stable in quick succession. Since then, however, all has gone quiet on the corporate front.

For a start. Whitbread has had more than a few difficulties in integrating what it has bought, and notably overpaid for brands such as Café Rouge. And purchasing prices have rocketed as the stock market has scaled new heights. So, for the time being. Whitbread cannot find anything to acquire at the right price.

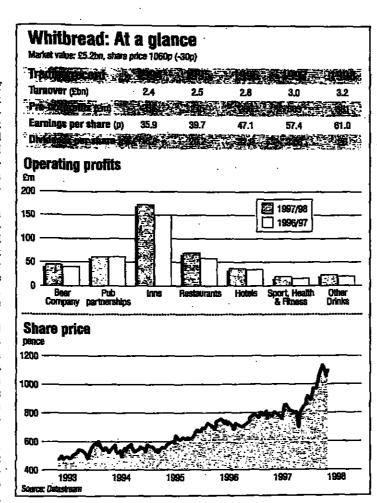
Nor are sales likely. Perennial disposal favourites such as brewing and the tenanted pub estate have attracted renewed bid interest but, so far, offers have not been high enough to tempt Whitbread to sell.

So, for now, the group is likely to rely on building its existing brands to push profits forward. Underlying earnings for the year to February rose 12 per cent to £355m, thanks to the consumer boom which increased trade at its restaurants and pubs.

Whitbread cautioned that trading had been hit by the terrible Easter weather, which caused its shares to fall 30p to 1,060p yesterday. But that looks like a blip given that takings have recovered in recent weeks.

should enable it to continue to capitalise on the consumer boom. Cost cutting should produce more margin improvements and, not before time, its return on capital employed is creeping towards its cost of capital.

Whether it can sustain a doubledigit growth rate in profits from its brands is another matter. With the leisure industry pumping huge amounts into expansion everybody could suffer if the economy slows.



Merrill Lynch forecasts full-year profits of £390m, putting the stock on a prospective p/e of 17. The strong run in Whitbread's shares, which has returned the group to a rating in line with the market, has been justified. But, for now, the shares are a hold.

Outlook sours for Tate & Lyle

promise to hungry shareholders of one of the household names of yesteryear, Tate & Lyle. But weary investors may have to wait some time to satisfy their appetites.

Turnover, earnings and margins all fell in the six months to February. Profits dropped one-third to £77m and retiring chairman Sir Neil Shaw warned full-year earnings will be "substantially down" on last year's £241m. Tate and Lyle has proved more enhance earnings until next year.

accident prone than most over the last few years. The latest lean period is blamed on a bewildering array of new dilemmas. A strong pound, which has reduced overseas profits by £6m. Disease in the Nebraska beet crop, at a time when the rest of the US was enjoying large crops and low sugar prices, and continuing problems at the state of the art starch plant in northern France added to the group's woes. To top it all, it has been left to count the cost of a £10m order of grain in Greece which the

group paid for but never received. Tate & Lyle is taking steps to drive down costs, dispose of underperforming bits and appoint new directors, including an acting chairman to replace Sir Neil. It has paid \$219m (£312m) for the food ingredients division of Haarman & Reimer, which will make Tate & Lyle the only global producer of citric acid. But, inevitably, this will not

The group has won US approval for sucralose, a promising new sweetener. But that will not impact on the bottom line for at least two years as it awaits EU approval. Meanwhile, prices for its fructose products are at last recovering. But profits will fall before they start to recover.

Analysts yesterday slashed fullyear forecasts from £230m to £170m, and profits the following year from £300m to £250m, putting the shares on a prospective p/e ratio of 17 then 13. The shares, which fell 24p to 460p yesterday, remain a hold on hopes that, if the group cannot sort out the disastrous performance, a rival may be tempted to come in and sort out the mess.

A bumpy ride from A&L

SHAREHOLDERS in Alliance & Leicester could be forgiven for being a bit beamsed by its volatile performance on the stock market. Yesterday its shares jumped 29.5p to 862p on the back of an upbeat announcement about mortgage business, having fallen 57.5p the previous day.

The shares have dipped in recent months as the market has become worried about the group's share of the mortgage market. Concerns surfaced after its rival Halifax warned three weeks ago it would struggle to recover business in the face of fierce

competition from mutual lenders. Peter White, A&L's chief executive, reassured investors to some extent by announcing that gross mortgage lending was ahead of the first quarter of 1997. But gross lending is not the whole story. Halifax's problem was its net lending figures. Customers waited for their flotation windfall and then got out. And A&L relies on mortgages for most of its earnings so is more vulnerable

to a mortgage price war than most. Panmure Gordon forecasts current-year earnings of 24.5p per share, putting A&L on a prospective p/e of 15. That is cheaper than Halifax on a prospective p/e of 16.5. But A&L's rating is still higher than banks such as Barclays - which doesn't have to rely so heavily on mortgages. Since floating, A&L's share price has risen sharply. Now would be a good time to take some profits.

PEOPLE & **BUSINESS**

IOHN WILLCOCK



EDS, the American computer consultancy that has more British government contracts than you could shake a stick at, has sent a pungent memo to staff in Bristol telling them off for snoozing at their desks at

Mike Rowley, EDS senior manager, tells staff in the memo, dated 27 April, that it is vital to give customers a good impression when working on site. In the memo, leaked to Computer Weekly, Mr Rowley writes: "Maintaining a smart appearance and behaving in a professional manner at all times will have a very positive effect on our customers' perception of EDS.

"Unfortunately this can be spoilt very quickly by seeing EDS staff at their workplace playing games on computers, playing board games such as backgammon, and falling asleep at their desks during lunchtime; these practises are to cease forthwith."

Mr Rowley sounds like a right party pooper. I'm sure the Inland Revenue, the vehicle licensing centre and the Department of Social Security are perfectly happy to watch EDS staff snoring away between computerised rubbers of bridge.

There again, EDS is the company that was founded by former presidential hopeful Ross Perot, who banned staff from wearing beards. This patriarchal approach seems to have survived Mr Perot's departure from the company, which is now independent. Last year EDS management e-mailed staff in the UK with a request to nominate colleagues' jobs for a redun-

dancy programme. Perhaps I am being unfair. A spokeswoman for EDS stressed yesterday that the "snooze" memo was aimed at only one of the company's hundred-odd UK sites, the Bristol site which is shared by Rolls-Royce, a customer. Some of it may be "power napping," she said. "We do have some quite young graduates working there. Or it might just be that they've been out on the razzle the night before."

I know the feeling. Mr Rowley does show some leniency in his memo, however: "It is recognised that some staff may wish to occupy their time over lunch playing intellectual games in the same way that others may wish to take exercise or pursue other activities.

"There is no objection to this, but it should not be done in the work place. I recommend that such activities are undertaken using, for example, conference room facilities with the times being duly proscribed to prevent conflict."

And there we must leave the wacky world of EDS, dear reader, to return to dull, grey reality ...

1630 (Md) 1660 (Md) 1600 (Md) 1600 (Md) 17910 (Md) 17910 (Md) 17910 (Md) 18011 (Md) 1801

63 Q 8720 Ltd

WELL, not that dull. A director at Baring Asset Management (BAM) has written a cracking first novel that starts with all governments in Europe being crushed to death in a "Millennium Tower" in Brussels, and climaxes in an act of "unintentional bestiality".

What the author's boss, BAM chairman John Bolsover, will make of all this mayhem remains to be seen. The title of Mark Cohen's debut, Brass Monkeys, is a clue to the "bestiality" involved. (Needless to say, I am assured no animals were harmed in any way during the making of this book.)

sile cou dow

Mark, director of the chairman's office, joined Barings in 1983 and finally decided he had to fulfil his lifetime ambition of penning a novel just four years ago. "I'd never written anything before. I wrote the book on the weekends and in the mornings before going to work. Then I rewrote it, twice. I managed to get Hodder & Stoughton to look at it, and they gave me a two-book deal."

The lucky blighter. Apparently the first draft featured a right-wing government mired in a sex scandal, but come the election of New Labour this had to be changed to a left wing government in a millennium

Hundreds of fund managers attended the launch party in Broadgate last night. Now it's on to the second book, says Mark. "It's about a bank that goes belly

up. But its not about Barings ..."

Of course it isn't, Mark. Mind you, a whiff of bestiality in the Square Mile would liven things up.

WAS startled by a series of explosions just outside the window of my office on the 18th floor of the Canary Wharf Tower yesterday morning, as were other journalists. "Is this supposed to be happening?" asked one ashen-faced writer, hurrying to the window.

Happily it was. Sighs of relief all round as it transpired that these were fireworks celebrating the topping out ceremony for the 20-story Citibank tower, now nearing completion at Canary Wharf in London's Docklands.

There's still no word whether Salomons will be joining the Citibank hordes in the new building, following the announcement of the Citicorp/Travelers merger. If they do, they'll find the public transport here a tight fit. The Docklands Light Railway already resembles a Japanese subway train at rush hour.

How will they cram in HSBC's 8,000 workforce when the bank moves to Canary Wharf, not to mention Société Générale's 2,000, who are due here before the millennium. Now we hear the Jubilee Line underground extension, originally due to open last autumn and solve all Canary Wharf's transport probems, will only be completed in June 1999 - and with limited signalling.

I'm buying a hang glider ...

JOHN GUNN, the tycoon who came a cropper at British & Commonwealth in the 1980s, is now investing heavily in celebrity cooks on US telly.

Mr Gunn yesterday bought a second tranche of 10,000 shares in West 175 Enterprises in as many days. The AIM-listed company produces and distributes programmes by people like Delia Smith. Gary Rhodes, Ken Hom and Madhur Jaffrey, to name but a few. It has just signed a 17-year joint venture with BBC Worldwide to broadcast gourmet programmes on US public broadcasting. That's an awful lot of Peking duck.

Mr Gunn has also got other things on the boil (sorry), including a small hotel business and Glenchewton, an expanding importer of household goods. History does not record whether he performs in the kitchen himself.

Industrial Metals Liffe Financial Futures Interest Rates Foreign Exchange Rates 10850 10250 10250 10663 10645 Long Gilt
5 Yr Gilt
6 Yr Gilt
German Bund
Italian Bond
Japan Govt, Bot
3 Mith Sterling
3 Mith Euroman 4938400 8400 7315000 344420 127600 1451200 184500 2346300 1972400 591900 1453800 952100 63000 30400 2047900 23047400 1003100 15477000 200 18590900 18590900 40327400 39354200 40327400 39354200 000 000 6368800 4438500 1246600 1247600 108.78 103.01 108.83 118.96 131.84 92.73 92.73 96.36 96.33 95.77 98.35 98.37 98.36 98.37 98.36 98.37 98.36 98.37 Sterika Spot 1,0000 2,5972 2,00530 2,3873 1,4873 8,910 2,929 2,9376 5,9223 2,0430 1,924 3,0430 1,924 3,0430 1,924 3,0430 1,924 3,0430 1,924 3,92 Dollar Special 1412.5 1292 1823.5 550.5 540 5825 1100 425 -140 1000 -750 -270 -140 -3300 1411.5 1287 1822.5 549.5 5400 5815 1099 -100 -100 -8650 -050 -4000 -1500 -200 Prime Discount Fed Funds Spein 10-d Repo Sweden \$pot 0.34th 0.8860 71379 20.648 0.8144 3.8160 0.8354 3.3528 1.0000 173.99 4.3868 0.8056 4.7922 1.906 4.7922 2.8630 8.5046 4.2966 0.8354 1.2566 0.8354 1.2566 1438 1310 1835 5495 5495 1725 25938 20597 60340 23621 1158 14834 88829 29220 51235 12850 28875 2919 64706 Precious Metals pm fb/\$ per Oz Day's Year's Crig chg
Platinum 398.00 -1.00 25.00 Peladium 355.00 -3.00 197.25 Silver 6.08 -0.18 1.33 Gold 301.00 -2.80 -4.000 President 25 per 02 Day's Yesr's Chig chig chig
Platinum 239.70 4050 11.55
Palladium 213.80 41.76 117.25
Silver 3.66 40.03 0.75 Yeer's chg 30455 7073 38730 575 511 543 510 505 498 521 165 504 534 532 316 582 567 Australia Belgium Canada ECU France German Italy Japan Niends Spain Sweden Siend UK US 485 378 479 428 000 369 484 047 389 455 456 158 695 486 480 400 511 425 400 450 405 405 480 741 515 Liffe FTSE 100 Index Option 3.2935 3.0358 12.177 29967 6.2175 2.6774 8.4419 248.68 12.545 2.4367 19809 18292 7,3318 18037 3,7555 16190 5,1615 149,65 7,5570 1,4800 Agricultural nt Price: 5992.40

key

Call imp Vol Put Imp Vol

157 18 46 27

121 18 60 26

92 19 81 26

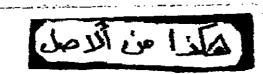
65 20 106 28 Jun Call Put 279 144 246 164 217 184 187 206 Aug Call Put 421 241 392 250 362 279 332 299 Series Cas 5300 157 5950 21 6000 92 6050 65 Energy Barley
LIFFE X/tonne
Mey98 78.00
Sep98 73.50
Nov98 75.50
Vot: 0
Wheek
LIFFE Stonne
Mey98 78.76
Jul98 78.65
Sep98 76.10
Vot: 0 Coffee
LIFFE Storne
May86 1930b0
Jul98 184300
Sep88 179000
Voi: 0
Freight
LIFFE STAKes
May98 995500
Jul98 93500
Voi: 0 Cocces
LIFFE \$/norne
May98 109600,
Jul98 112200
Sep98 173900
Voi: 0
White Sugar*
LIFFE \$/norne
Aug98 25400
Coc68 25500
Dec98 25020
Voi: 0 Potables

LIFTE Exorne
May98 13800
Juri98 13800
Nov98 7500
Vol: 0

Corn*

CBC7 Cares/bshi
May98 25025
Jug98 25600
Vol: 0 Soya Be CBCT & May98 Jul98 Aug98 Vot: WTI (XYM Jul Aug Sep \$10Mkgt 995,00 935,00 935,00 0 | Brent Crude(\$/berrel) Gas oil(\$/tonne) | PE Lest* Chg Vol PE Close Chg Vol | Jun 1453 -0.07 1251 May 0425 -0.50 6890 | Jul 1468 -0.08 11797 Jun 15625 -0.75 5900 | Aug 1520 -0.00 2820 Jul 138.75 -0.50 844 Storne 76.76 76.65 76.10 0 **Spot Rates Money Market Rates** Argentina Brazal China Czech Ri Egypt Ghana Hungary India Indonesa Kuwan 0.6388 73.101 65.467 5.6166 60.448 101810 22012 64.730 65.301 414.543 6.0953 0.3850 44.050 39.450 3.3845 36.406 6135.0 1326.40 32.980 38.360 24.9800 3.6730 82783 32480 34046 23225 20907 39.775 63000 03053 13.738 53.901 58.489 3854.2 346.95 66.007 13773.8 0.5066 Treasury Sills
LIBOR
Domestic Depos
Eurostering Depos
Eligible Bank Bills
Sterling CDs
Eurodollar CDs
ECU Deposits Gold Chg -087 166 -082 -000 -027 -437 an Sach %chg -053 -080 -141 -000 -015 -102 at 5:30pm %chgYTD Other Softs 734 751 738 740 721 734 739 732 561 416 428 734 7.61 738 7.44 721 734 737 730 570 416 428 Jun Live Cettle (CME) \$440k ib Jul Pork Belles (CME) \$440k ib Jul Crange Juice (CTN) \$75k ib May Mak (CSC) \$45k bsh Jul Cate (CST) \$75k bsh Jul Plax (WCE) \$720 to (SAF) \$/100 mt 88700 (TCM) Y/ 5k kg 8380 (CTN) \$/50k tb 85.55 (KLC) \$/25 to 2425.00 (CBT) \$/80k tb 2535 215.26 231.23 85.86 168.79 191.03 463.54 68.63 Jul 57.90 May 18.95 Jul Jul 184.50 Jul 421.70 May 164.44 209.07 57.44 153.79 180.87 404.51 -23,61 -9,58 -33,10 -8,89 -5,32 -12,73 Index Agricultural Energy Ind Metals Livestock Prec Metals Pubber
Cotton
Crude Pain
Soya Oil
Woolen Ve Latest Unit Trust Prices Bay 43.53 258.50 1200) F 62.25 52.31 53.84 58.80 50/9 55/260 55/260 55/260 55/27 55/27 55/27 56/2 250.260 250.260 390.270 107.00 Fund 404 26370 refiglion 527 5058 5083 5339 s Funda 15 4UG 000 045 581 844 485 029 23750 25020 50200 507100 70150 10700 70150 10700 70150 10500 70150 EuronGrowthAce
EuronGrowthCaste
Income Acc
Income Acc
Institution In Amel
Institution Institution Institution
Institution Institution Institution
Institution Institution
Institution Institution
Institution Institution
Institution Institution
Institution Institution
Institution Institution
Institution Institution
Institution Institution
Institution Institution
Institution Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution
Institution 546.20 488.27 372.00 148.27 572.00 148.27 572.00 503.00 725.00 72 217X 217X 102X 093 029X 253.76 (Mis)
62.63 (Mis)
70.06 (Mis)
70.06 (Mis)
70.06 (Mis)
70.06 (Mis)
70.05 53.76 96.53 10106 20300 83.45 10136 105.56 105. 0.00) 0.000 6.000 0.000 10129 18437 18430 18670 18624 18624 18624 18630 18726 18736 25:23 62:28 95:176:58 176:58 27:50 18:69 45:50 97:27 38:09 45:50 97:27 16:22 98:47 16:22 98:47 16:22 16:23 16:24 1 289.68 68.54 858 82.48 124.68 290.33 194.37 200.78 104.02 4.21 120.68 20.24 151.45 121.33 270.3 14400 20950 6752 17430 84500 84590 69530 84590 64590 32240 35310 1530 1530 8266 8814
7532 7862
15390 19240
15390 19240
15390 19240
15390 19240
15400 19450
19440 19450
19460 19450
19560 19440
19700 19560
19440 19560
19440 19560
19440 19560
19440 19560
19440 19560
19440 19560
19440 19560
19440 19560
19440 19560
19440 19560
19440 19560
19440 19560
19440 19560
19440 19560
19440 19560
19440 19460
19460 19560
19460 19560
19460 19560
19460 19560
19460 19560
19460 19560
19460 19560
19460 19560
19460 19560
19460 19560
19460 19560
19460 19560
19460 19560
19460 19560
19460 19560
19460 19560
19460 19560
19460 19560
19460 19560
19460 19560
19460 19560
19460 19560
19460 19560
19460 19560
19460 19560
19460 19560
19460 19560
19460 19560
19460 19560
19460 19560
19460 19560
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 19460
19460 1946 19950 14670 14670 14670 16751 202.00
148.71
25.40
45.40
45.40
45.40
16.30
16.29
76.29
76.40
76.20
76.40
76.20
76.40
76.20
76.40
76.20
76.40
76.20
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.40
76.4 18 255 255 140 580 687 350X 180X 180X 098 045 214 1804
22530 000
52000 000
52000 000
52000 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 000
52500 0

42 FEE



1030 R.
15 per cent
15 per cen

Silence In Court lays down law

By Richard Edmondson at Chester

IT would not have been a satisfactory Chester Cup if Top Cees had not played a leading role. The old horse did not win the race (that honour went appropriately enough to Silence in Court), but he did magnetize

fell in the stampede to the line. As he was squeezed up the inside rail on the final turn for home, Top Cees collided with Candle Smile. The eight-yearold jackknifed and his partner, Jimmy Fortune, was nearly thrown from the saddle.

the attention again as he almost

The stewards deferred their deliberations on this scrimmage until after the following race, but then we had become used to adjournments with Top Cees. They decided the impact was accidental. It was not a view shared by the respective trainers, particularly as both horses were injured. Lynda Ramsden did not approve of these particular damages.

"It's an absolute disgrace," she said. "They tried to put us over the rail. We're going to jockey, Kieren Fallon.

have to stitch the horse up and Jimmy's boot is torn." The jockey added: "There was plenty of room when I went for the gap but I got half way in and it closed on me."

The contradictory interpretation from George Barnett, Candle Smile's trainer, was that Top Cees had been forced where the sun didn't shine. His horse too had severe lacera-

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Memorise

(Chester 3.10) **NB: Superior Premium** (Chester 3.40)

Some old adversaries from chamber 13 of the High Court had gathered to see Top Cees attempt a third Chester Cup. In the red corner, the team in debit after £195,000 in damages was awarded against them earlier this year, was The Sporting Life's Alastair Down, and witnesses Derek Thompson and Jim Mc-Grath. On the opposing benches were the Ramsdens, Jack and Lynda, plus their former stable



The well-backed Silence In Court (second left, sheepskin noseband) winning the Chester Cup yesterday to loud acclaim from the packed stands Photograph: Julian Herbert/Allsport

Top Cees himself had not been called to give evidence on The Strand, but he seemed to be well aware of the adjudication. The gelding appeared to be grinning as he circled in the paddock. On his snout was a voluminous sheepskin noseband to which most of the flock must have contributed.

Top Cees travelled well in the race before his crash. Dato Star, though, did not even manage a full circuit before he was pulled up suffering from a fast heartbeat. Fortune was soon to at the weekend that Bailey unknow how the gelding felt.

As the jockey was dragging himself back into the saddle, Silence In Court was accelerating down the outside to give Alan Bailey his second success in the race following Old Hubert's victory 11 years ago.

Silence In Court should have won a big race before now, but in running Double Trigger to a length in Ascot's Sagaro Stakes four years ago he ruptured a tendon. He has hardly run at all since then, but he became so obnoxious at Sandy Brow Stables derstood he was back to his best. Low, won the Cheshire Oaks laid her at all rates down from

"I knew on Sunday that I had and is a top-priced 20-1 to win him spot-on because, when he the version for grown-ups at Derby, but there was also heavy gets well, the horse acts like a bastard," the trainer said. "If he sustained backing for Cape hasn't been ridden for six Verdi for both the Derby and months anyone can get on him and he'll walk round half dead.

whipping round." Barry Hills further extended his record as the leading trainer in this parish with a double that took his lifetime total at the Roodee to 93 winners. The second of those, High And

But when he gets to concert

pitch he starts squealing and

Epsom next month. Bookmakers yesterday report.

Oaks. Coral have seen a huge around the 1,000 Guineas winner for both Classics, but also on other Godolphin represen-"We were knocked over in

9-2 to 11-4, with a run, for the support for her at 9-4 for the

Coral cut City Honours to 12-1 from 16-1 for the blue riband and Bahr to 8-1 from "Godolphin gamble" centring 10-1 for the fillies' classic. Midnight Line also attracted support for the Oaks and is now a 9-2 chance from 6-1. Ladbrokes tatives - City Honours for the have cut Cape Verdi to 3-1 with Derby and Bahr for the Oaks. a run from 5-1 for the Derby.

Gulland has been backed the rush for Cape Verdi, said from 14-1 into 10-1 with Hills spokesman Simon Clare. "We and City Honours from 16-1 into 12-1.



Chester

3.10 Riyadian

HYPERION 2.10 ERUPT (nap) 2.40 Scorned

3.40 Ziggy's Dancer 4.10 Damails 4.40 Night City (nb)

GOING: Good STALLS: 1m 21, - stands side; rest - inside DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low numbers best.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low numbers best.

**QLeft-hand, fight, circular course, Not suitable for long-stricting horses.

**Course is nt city centre on AS48. Cheeter station fm. ADM#SSION: County Enclosure £25 (Juniors 5-16yrs £5); Tattersals £6; Dee Stand £5; Course £3. CAR PARK; £ 82.

**QLEADING TRAINERS: M Stoute 15-54 (23.4%), J Berry 13-107 (22.1%), A Balley 13-125 (10.4%), B Hiller 12-64 (19.8%), B Michiarhon 10-54 (19.5%), R Hannon 9-53 (17%),

**QLEADING JOCKEYS: K Darley 15-77 (20.8%), L Dettori 12-89 (17.4%), K Fallon 12-103 (17.1%), J Fortune 11-78 (14.9%), Pet Eddery 10-54 (19.5%), M Hills 9-89 (13%),

**GFAVOURITES: 135-327 (41.3%),

**BURNIERS FIRST TIME: None.

2.10 WILLIAM HARE WYNN HANDICAP (CLASS C) C4 CS20-0 ALISERT THE BEAR (40) (CD) (Chris & Antonia Deuters) J Berry 5 10 0 K Deday 6 81

ľ	2	DO-450	SELVERNIC (PH) (42) (U) [LIBNO CROOK) M MERCE 69 TUPE ECORTY 12
ı	3	0-2065	NOMORE MR NECEGUY (5) (Mrs Cardi P McPhell) E Alston 4 9 8 K Fellon 14
ľ	4	111440	URSA MAJOR (54) (D) (Newmerket Connections Ltd) C Allen 4 9 6
Į	5	010002	SUPER MONARCH (17) (Cheigate Public Relations Ltd) S Dow 4 9 2T Quinn 18
İ	6	0000-1	GEE BEE DREAM (15) (Grant & Bowman Limited) A Jervin 4 9 2
ı	7	100-00	DESERT LYNX (16) (Mrs R T Watson) T Watson 5 9 0
ŀ	8	02-5	FLOATING CHARGE (20) Geonard Curis Partnership) J Fanshave 48 toN Day 8
l	9	1055(-	ANTARCTIC STORM (J184) (D) (Northumbria Leisure) R Fathey 5 8 (3.R Wilneton (5) 4
l	10	0200-00	BAND ON THE RUN (16) (D) (D J Allen) B McMahon 11 8 12
ŀ	n	420-00	BRAVEHEART (13) (W H Poneorby) M Chernon 4 6 11R Hughts 5
l	12	354-	STAR INVADER (208) (BF) (Maxioum Al Makioum) M Slouts 4 8 11
l	13	3400-	CANTINA (195) (B K Recing) A Bailey 4 8 7
ļ	14	146121	ELITE HOPE (USA) (19) (Else Recing Club) N Tinkler 8 8 8 Deen McKeown 18
l		62-504	TWIN CREEKS (17) (D) (The Armsheir Jockeys) V Scene 7 8 5
ı	16	00-640	I CAN'T REMEMBER (2) (C) (D) (Peter Grahem Resing) P Scane 4 8 4
ı	17	00-001	ERLIPT 69 (Striney Eaton) M Brittam 5 8 4 (Bex)

- 18 declared BETTING: 11-2 Star Immaler, 5-1 Namore Mr Miceguy, 7-1 Gee Bee Dream, 8-1 Albert The Bear,
10-1 Empt, Roeting Cherge, 12-1 Midyan Queen, Antarctic Storm, 16-1 Twin Creaks, Braveheart,
Cantina, Silvering, Band On The Run, 20-1 others
1997: Albert The Bear 4 9 2 K Darley 8-1 (J Benry) chem (S) 18 ran
FORM GUIDE

Michael Stoute's Star Invader and James Farshawe's Floating Charge (behind stable-mate Island Race at Thirsk) are interesting midens in this not-so-hot hendicap. Gee Bee Dream and Empt are recent winners in the mid and both should figure from a tavourable draw. Midyan Queen has the best draw and she shaped well on her reappearance when sixth or 15 to Night Of Glass at Thirsk. The winner for me, despite the bed draw is NOMORIE MR NICEGUY, who was ploped by Fayik in a hot race on the all-weather in March. A Lincoln run followed and then two attampts over six furlongs (fifth to Sheltering Sty on Saturday) so the return to seven furlongs is very much in his farour. Albert The Bear won this race last year and again lines up with just the one run behind him, but Sitvering, all-weather specialist Ursa Major and the poorly draw pair? Can't Remember and Super Monanch could be found wanting.

2.40 CAPITAL BANK 185TH YEAR OF THE DEE STAKES (Listed) (CLASS A) £40,000 added 3YO 1m 2f 75yds Penalty Value £27,650

FORM GLIDE

Profits attempts to follow up the stablish win with High And Low in yesterday's Cheshire

Caks. His three-quarters second to Teapor Row in the Royal Lodge States is cracking

form and, though far from impressive on two starts this term (besten at 9-2 on at Doncaster), he can do at the better over today's longer trip after the Think with from Guitand's

pacemaker Ridgeway, Scotned and Simon Whitworth are on a jour-timer after Doncaster) caster), he can do all the better over today's longer mp enter me intermed was much castering pacernaker Ridgeway. Scotned and Simon Whitworth are on a four-timer after Doncaster (twice) and Kempton (six lengths wither in the mud). A son of Selicific who should aways prefer this type of ground, Scotned won with the penalty at Kempton so has a first-rate chance again today. Musinized is a bit behind Profix on their respective proximity to Teapott Row. Almost tive lengths actiff of the Toller cut at Doncaster, Musinized at least showed his well-being with a comfortable win in a poor race at Nottingham on his reeppearance and now up an extra quarter-mile. TRIDENT is the choice with a run last month under his belt. That six-length fifth to Border Arrow (third in the 2,000 Guineas) will have put an adde on him.

3.10 ORMONDE STAKES (Group 3) (CLASS A) 255,000 added 1m 5f 99yds Pen. Val. £36,060 C4 1 1050- STRETAREZ (FR) (193) (Winning Line Recing Limbed) Miss V Williams 5 9 2 K Durley 5 112
1 1301-1 FURTHER FLIGHT (17) (CD) (Exors late 9 Wingfield Digby) B His 5 8 11 114 Hish 1 117
1 1202- MEMORISE (USA) (218) (K Abdulle) H Cecl 4 8 11 115 Eddery 2 113
1 1202-1 MEMORISE (USA) (218) (K Abdulle) H Cecl 4 8 11 115 Eddery 2 113
1 1202-1 MEMORISE (USA) (218) (K Abdulle) H Cecl 4 8 11 115 Eddery 2 113
1 1203-1 MEMORISE (USA) (12) (Shelf) Mohammach J Gosdan 4 8 11 115 Eddery 2 113
1 179-3 RIYADIAN (12) (H R H Prince Fahd Salman) P Cele 6 8 11 115 T Quitare 6 125
1 179-3 RIYADIAN (12) (H R H Prince Fahd Salman) P Cele 6 8 11 115 T Quitare 6 125
1 1803-1 T Quitare

RIYADIAN is a class act who is fancied to have the lags of Further Flight. Over ten furings on his responserance – and in tentible ground – he will be seen in a better light over this trip on the better surface. Third to Germano and Geruda at Sandown, Riyadian is reported back to his best and he's a past winner of the Jockey Cuto Cup and the Cumbertand Lodge States. Further Flight was no gallant in detect in this last year, but the ground was very tearing then and he'b be stretched today on the faster ground egainst a horse of Riyadian's class. Memorites was a decent handicapper last term with a Newmerlet with and an unlucky passage at Glorious Goodwood against the decent Maylane. He wasn't good enough in the higher grade against Busy Flight at Doncaster and More, at Newmarket, but he's the type to progress as a four-year-old. John Gooden't Redibridge is an interesting runner in a Group Three stier an all-weather stroll against nubbleh. A promis-ing third to Gristiass at Newbury over a year ago in a race that worked out really well, Redbridge could still be anything. Pallio Sky, tailed off behind residence at Newbury on his reappearance, wouldn't seem good enough, and the ex-French trained stayer Santarez-will be stratched with his penalty.

3.40 HILL DICKINSON RATED HANDICAP (CLASS B) £15,000 added 5f Pen. Val. 28,777 CLASS D) E15,UND RODGED STPERL VIA. 2.6,177 V

SUPERIOR PREMIABLE (\$) (D) (LC Parson) R Fahoy 4.97 R. Winnison (\$) 1.104

001-00 RUDGE PET (29) (D) (Lonethan Remarken) Mrs. J Remarken 4.93 J. Partama 8.102

005-00 DANCER HENGERTAWAY (#2) (CD) (G A Boden) B Meetan 4.9.2 J. Haird 5.104

2.9301 THE GAY FOLK (\$) (CD) (6 Wintaker) B Holdshorn 4.9.1 J. T. Channock 4.105

100-800 WESTCOURT BARCE (28) (CD) (CH Hodgest) M W Essierby 5.8.9 J. Channock 4.105

100-800 WESTCOURT BARCE (28) (CD) (CH Comm) E Alaton 7.6.8 J. Channock 4.105

100-800 PERDRIK THE REPECE (28) (CD) (CH Comm) E Alaton 7.6.8 J. Deam McKanown 7.8.105

100-800 SAUDO F REPERCE (28) (CD) (CH Comm) E Alaton 8.4 J. Deam McKanown 7.8.105

100-800 SAUNO (17) (D) (Swinnerson Tamport) Ltd P Evens 4.8 4 J. Deam McKanown 7.8.105

100-800 SAUNO (17) (D) (Swinnerson Tamport) Ltd P Evens 4.8 4 J. Deam McKanown 7.8.105

100-800 SAUNO (17) (D) (Swinnerson Tamport) Ltd P Evens 4.8 4 J. Deam McKanown 7.8.105

100-800 SAUNO (17) (D) (Swinnerson Tamport) Ltd P Evens 4.8 4 J. Deam McKanown 7.8.105

Mungo Park at Newcastle with Lago DI Virrano in third and now 8to better for the twolength beating. Rudil's Pet won two good handicaps last season – the Doncaster win
from Perryston View being impressive with Westcourt Magic, Lago Di Varano and Ziggy's Dancer behind. He'll be better for two runs this season but being drawn eight of nine
is not good. Dancadhenightaway won from a cracking draw at this facture 12 months ago.
Her tater win at Ascot was also in testing ground so todayts conditions may court against
her. Fredrik The Fierce won here as a juvenile and looks risky today on his reappearance after having just two starts less term.

Selection: THE GAY FOX

4	ī	TEB,F, LINCOLN MILD CIGARS SEFTON MAIDEN STAKES
4.	IV	E.B.F. LINCOLN MILD CIGARS SEFTON MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £10,000 added 2YO filles 5f Penalty Value £7,263
l	٥	BROCKHEAD BRANDY (7) (The Wined Up Parinership) P Evans 8 11 Deen McKeown 2
2	Ð	CRASH CALL LADY (7) (Crash Call Ltd) C Allen 8 11
3	32	DAMALIS (22) (EIF) (Liam Ferguson) E Alsion 8 11 K Fullon 4
		DOCKLANDS MERC (Mrs Lies Obey) N Tirkler B 11
•		DONE AND DUSTED (Chris & Artonia Deuters) J Berry 8 11
3		KALIDASA (USA) (R E Sengsier) P Chappis-Hyam B 11
,		KARESAL (Mrs J E M Hawking) J Berry B 11
3		PAULA'S JOY (John Bredin) M Chermon 8 11T Quing 7
1		PREDEWAY (New Jones) A Bailey 8 til
n	6	ROTOSTAR (7) (M.W.) serrocci P. Perros R 11

- 10 declared -— 10 distance —

10(2: 7-4 Damella, 5-2 Kalidasa, 4-1 Pealint Jo., 6-1 Doon And Dustind, 10-1 Karlesi, 12-1 Pride14-1 Robstle, Brookband Brandy, 20-1 Dockbards Merc, 25-1 Crash Cell Lady
Sodieridistinction 2 8 11 K Fallon 2-1 fev (A Belley) distant (1) 6 mm

FORMA GUIDE

1997: Sodiantistinction 2 is 11 in hazard and an every security.

PORMI GUIDE

Describes has the experience so she's going to take the beeting having been nicely backed when third in the Brocklesby Stakes and then beeten a neck by Paul Cole's newcomer Jig at Newmarket. Keren Fellon rides her again after Newmarket, but the Peter Chapple-Hyam newcomer KALEDASA could also be smert, being by Nurreyer out of a Seattle Stev mare. The other three with experience at contested the same all-weather race at Wolserhampton and all were well beaten behind Sydney Satehands. Jack Berry runs tow with Kewn Derley on Done And Dusted and Jimmy Fortune aboerd Karikat. Paulia's Joy is a Denshill newcomer from Mirk Chevnority ward and she would seem the only other of note.

Selection: KALDASA

4 40 CHESTER EVENING LEADER HANDICAP (CLASS D) ' I £10.000 added 1m 4f 66vds Pe

MER.	CELOSOM I CLER STOOL PROPRIES OR AND IN 11 CONTRACT A 20 TO 12
61064	JNDNGO TIME (795) (D) (Terry Nells) C Brooks 69 13
131361	NGCHT CITY (36) (D) (Nigel Shields) K Burla 7 9 5
60/02	DOMAPPEL (346) (D) (M C Banks) Mts J Ceci 6 9 4
902	KBN(ESCASH (J12) (D) (D.P. James) P Bown 594
00/24	NORCEC BREEZE (JS) (Melcolm B Jones) M Pipe 691
00- 000	REBEL COUNTY (2) (C) (Showtime Ice Creem Concessionaire) A Bailey 5 8 13.J Fortune 8
04-133	THE BUTTERWICK KID (33) (CO) (R Chambers) R Fathey 5 8 9
D3(3)-	POLAR PROSPECT (J16) (\$ Mrs Don Last and Bill Yases) P Hobbs 5 8 8
30020-	TONNERRE (234) (an Guise) B McMahon 6 8 6
5-5636	AMBIDEXTROUS (7) (C) (D) (Mrs Carol P McPhail) E Alston 6 8 5
	WENTERIDGE LAD (145) (C) (John Pugh) W Brisbourne 8.8.4
360-05	TEMPTRESS (15) (D) (Paddy Barrett) JL Harris 5 8 3
	_ 13 deviaged _

BETTING: 4-1 Migha Ciby, 5-1 The Butterwick Kid, 6-1 Point Prospect, 8-1 Tomerre, 10-1 Kinner Pennion Fund, Ambidentrosa, 12-1 Temptress, Nordic Bresza, Indigo Tiese, 14-1 Dosseppel, County, 20-1 Westbridge Lad 1997: The Butterwick Kid 47 11 R Winston (7) 11-2 (R Febry) drawn (8) 11 ran FORM GRITDE

The Butterwick Kid won this last year in testing ground and this hardy sort has been nuring well enough this season to suggest another good effort. This is a real teaser with Temptrees just the type to go well at a price with two runs under her bek. She's well handicapped on her old form and improved lest time up at Epsom when a six-length fifth to Assured Gamble. POLAR PROSPECT wents the ground to stay on the fast side and was a winner over hurdes at Chepstow 18 days. This trip also looks olary for him, bearing in mind he was good enough to win over shorter at Redcer last beckend. Kinnescent, Nordic Breeze and Ambidestrous are others here from hurding. Kinnescent may not appreciate this tight 12 furiongs, but Nordic Breeze could be interesting at the trip after his all-weather second to Guif Shaad (fm), while Ambidestrous won on the course last in the showed him to be in great heart. He was just a bit too hippy at that trip (fm 36) for The Butterwick Kid, who kept on to be beaten just over two lengths and now meets Night City on 5b better terms.

Selection: POLAR PROSPECT

CHESTER HYPERION'S 2.10: ERUPT comes into this race

in good form and is ideally drawn near the rails in stall two, should go well. Midyan Queen, in stall one, might be the main danger. 2.40: SCORNED supplemented

his eight-length success in a Doncaster stakes race over a mile on Lincoln day with an equally-fluent six-length triumph over Last Christmas in the 1m 2f Stanmore Stakes at Kempton's Easter fixture. He can complete a hat-trick. Mushraaf and Prolix should pose more problems than Trident.

3.10: RIYADIAN, who has had injury problems, showed he retains plenty of ability with a highly creditable four-length third to Germano in the Group Three

TV TIPS

Gordon Richards Stakes over 1m 2f at Sandown on Whitbread day. Better over this longer distance, he can oblige at the main expense of Memorise, a useful performer last season who is expected to be even better this year.

3.40: ZIGGY'S DANCER, proven

over this tight track, ran a cracking race when 31/: lengths second to Swino (8lb worse off today) at Thirsk last month and, coming out of stall two today, has good prospects. Superior Premium, in stall one, looks the danger.

First show

Chester — 2.10				
Home	C	H	L	T
Nomera Mr Micago,	1 3-1	8 -1	5-1	8-1
Star invader	35	6-1	61	7-1
Gase Base Domina	ы	61	8-1	9-1
Albert The Bear	10-1	91	8-1	9-1
Empt	9-1	B-1	10-1	7-1
Asterolic Store	10-1	14-1	12-1	73-1
Floating Charge	14-1	12-1	10:1	10:1
Michael Custer	10:1	14-1	11-1	12-1
Cantion	14-1	14-1	184	12- 1
Ticia Creats	14-1	12-1	18-1	14-1
Straing	16-1	20-1	20-1	20-1
Band On The Run	201	3 -1	22-1	20-1
Downt Lyte.	20:1	25-1	25-1	25-1
ESSe Hope	25-1	25-1	254	20-1
Conft Repressive	254	20-1	25-1	25-1
Lista Major	20-1	18-1	25-1	25-1
Open Miller and	20.1	48.1	25.1	201

Che	ester –	- 3.10	
Haran	H	S	T
Ryedian	7-4	13-6	15-8
Recibility	52	52	7-2
Further Flight	92	41	7-2
Memoriso	41	54	7-2
Pallo Sky	10-1	10-1	19-1
Shelaruz	20-1	20-1	14-1
Sacti way.	a quader the c	dis, pieces 1,	2

Ches	ter	_	3.4	10	
Hose	C	ĸ	L	Ş	Ţ
Ziggy's Dentage	41	92	41	41	41
Describenightenay	92	92	5-1	41	41
Wasteourt Magic	51	8-2	92	54	51
Superior Principina	92	5-1	92	92	11-2
Rudfa Pel	7-1	7-1	8-1	H	192
Swine	94	7-1	7-1	8-1	8-1
The Gay Fox	8-1	94	71	9-1	8-1
Lago (X Visitos	8-1	7-1	10 -1	7-1	8-1
Fredrik The Figure	15 -1	20-1	20-1	3 4	161
Each may a li	hfe	odbis, p	hos:	,23	

Hamilton

2.00 Stylish Ways 2.30 Calico Lady 3.00 Forty Love 3.30 Di Matteo 4.00 Best Of All 4.30

GOING: Good to Soft.

STALLS: 51 & 81 - for side; fm & fm 11 - inside; fm 41 - atands side.

STALLS: 51 & 81 - for side; fm & fm 11 - inside; fm 41 - atands side.

SHAW ADVANTAGE: High for 51 and 61 but check stalls position.

GRapht-hand undustring course with pear-shaped loop.

GCourse is N of fown on B7071. Hamilton West station (service from Glasgow) fm. ADMISSION: Club 512; Grandstand and Paddock 57 (05 for OAPs, disabled & studenty). Accompanied unless the side of the side on the side of ©LEADRIG TRANSCHS: M Johnston 33-99 (1976), J Berry 37-20 (4%), Miss L Perrait 20-231 (8.7%), D Haydn Jooes 13-58 (224%), GLEADRIG JOCKEYS: A Mischay 22-70 (20%), J Carroll 21-97 (12-9), N Kapsady 14-88 (1976), T Williams 13-102 (12.7%).

(11275), IN PARTIES OF THE COLORS, 1 WARRING OF THE (1227 PM)

SEANOURITIES 201-541 (372%).

SEANOURITIES 201-541 (372%).

LONG DISTANCE RUNNER: Robellon (200) has come 385 miles. 2.00 NEWMARKET NAKED OAT SCOTTISH SPRINT SERIES' LIMITED STAKES

(CLASS F) £3,500 added 6f (CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(CLASS F) E3,500 acided 6f

(C

Miss Bridget Catabouse (5) 4

14. declared
14. declared
15. declared
16. declared
16. declared
17. declared
18. declared -

2.30 STATTERSALLS MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES (QUALIFIER) (CLASS E) 25,000 added 2YO 5f

3.00 JOHN HIGGINS SELLING HANDICAP (CLASS F) E3,000 added 1m 4f - 14 declared - 14 declared - 14 declared - 15ETTRIC 27.4 Ballantine Boy, 5-1 Harry's Polare, 6-1 Harry The Hand, 8-1 Harry Th

		404
800	FLORISMART (25) 8 Baugh 8 9 5	
m	FORTY LOVE (14) D Motat 393	J Carroll 7 V
QUK.	LOWIL MAR (14) D INCHES ARAINETS	D. T
431	SHUTTLECOCK (48) D Chepmen 78 1]P Hessey (4) 4
	BURLESCUE (29) J Bethell 4 8 10	M Ferrico R
-130	DOMESTICAL AND A CONTRACT OF A	
400	HUTCHES LADY (4) (C) R McKeller 6 6	\$ WEEEE 2
	BREYDON (26) P Moraeta 589	O Patta 6
P4-0	CHELDON (SE) L MINERS 20	a Charles B
0-03	WEE CHRISTY (6) W McKecom 3 BS_	A (481 A 3 D
	- 9 declared -	
MG: 1	io-11 Lucy Tidly, 5-1 Forty Love, 6-1 Box	KOOK, B-Z WOS CARBOY,
	igue, Foolish Flotter, 12-1 Hutchies La	du 16.3 Chuitleanch
100	1906' LOOKSKI LEBOSE' 15-1 LEBOSES 14	Tall to 1 Commence

3.30 BELLSHILL MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS E) £3,750 added 3YO 1m 1f 36yds

4.00 SUNDAY MAIL HANDICAP (QUALIFIER) (CLASS E) £5,000 added 1m 65yds 0600-0 BEST OF ALL (41) (12) J Berry 6 10 0 ... R Plement 4 8 0000-0 PRIDE OF PENDLE (13) (2) M Wises 9 10 0 ... J Carroll 7 4502- ASIGERN (222) (1) O Hugh 1008 7 9 8 ... A Mackey 6 44000 THE LAMBTON WORM (230) D Smith 4 9 8 ... W Supple 8 4 4500- THE LABTION WORLD (230) D Smith 4 9 8... W Supplie 8

(pa)0- ATOMIC SHELL (51) Mrs A Swinbank 5 9 7... G Doffield 14

8 35626 ZORBA (4) (C) J Helberton 4 9 8... W Supplie 8

8 35626 ZORBA (4) (C) J Helberton 4 9 8... M Kennedy 2 V

7 98-98 STORBAESS (13) (C) J Golda 7 9 2... J Brandell 3

8 22115 TIME OF NEGHT (20) (8F) J L Eye 5 8 8... A Colhane 10

9 03300- WHSTON (182) (D) J Berlind 5 8 4... A Colhane 10

10 0000-5 WAGGA MOON (105) M Britain 4 8 4... R Ferrare (7) 5

10 2000- SAMSPET (197) R Richell 4 7 10... P Financy (2) 13

2 25-000 SAMSPET (197) R Richell 4 7 10... P Financy (2) 13

2 25-000 SWEET NOTE (4) Miss I. Persit 4 7 10... Michaely (7) 1

14 0-0030 SWEET NOTE (4) Miss I. Persit 4 7 10... J Michaely (7) 1

14 0-0030 BALLYKISSANGEL (112) N Byroth 5 7 30... S Maloney 11

Abritour weight: 7st 10b, True bareficap weights: Samsper 7st 8th, Grand Hold 7st 7b, Sweet Note for 13th, Establishers/global 6st 11th.

BETTING: 7-2 Time Of Night, 5-1 Stormless, 11-2 Winston, 6-1 Zarba, 8-1 Bast Of All, Waggs Moon, 12-1 Askern, 14-1 At

4.30 CLYDE VALLEY HANDICAP (CLASS F)

Southwell HYPERION 2.20 Trakelor 2.50 Killarney Jazz 3.20 Kass Alhawa 3.50 The Donk 4.20 Ice Age 4.50

Sunset Harbour GORNG: Standard.
STALLS: 51 - outside; remainder - inside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: None.
PRAW ADVANTAGE: None.
GOOUTSE to Stand Starp, oval course.
GOOUTSE to Stand Starp, oval course.
GOOUTSE to Stand Stand Starp.
GOOUTSE TO ST

tion adjoins course. ADMISSION: CALO £12; Bittersails 28 (OAP members of courses bitemond Culo £4, accommensed under-16s-fred; CAR PARIC: Free. el. EUDBIG TRANERES: M. Johnston 48-224 (2025), S. Bowing 44-382 (22%), R. Hoffmitheed 36-395 £1%; D. Chapmain 34-388 (85%), el. EADMIG JOCKEYS: J. Guitm 34-463 (85%), Dean McKaown 27-328 £295, F. Lynnot. 34-76 (36%), R. Cochrane 20-54 (35%), eFAVOURITES: 540-558 (34.7%). BLINGERED FIRST TIME: Bluoprint (Moored, 220), Kalley God-dees 23.0, Limnetsong 4504.

жg <u>(450</u>), 2.20 MAGNOLIA HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,000 added 3YO 1m 4f

- 8 declared -Minimum weight: 7st 10th. This bandings weights: Teknikor 7st 9th, Filter Fron-Ser 7st 785. Ser 7st 70. BETTING: 5-2 Biosprint, 3-1 Long Bood, 4-1 Centerdia, 13-2 Time For Lager, 8-7 Spice Sirl, 10-1 Traitelor, 12-1 Disco Tex, 14-1 River Frontier

2.50 CAMELLIA CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,000 added 3YO 1m -5384 AMEER REGENT (77) P Hastern 97 _____ C Lowther (3) 7 O4811 KILLASINEY JAZZ (56) CD) N Literoden 9.5 A McCarthy (5) 8 B 0040 RYSFIELD STAR (10) J Berry 8 13 _____ G Carter 6 - 8 declared -BETTING: 15-8 Killermay Juzz, 5-2 Ambier Regent, 4-1 Ryefield Stor, 13-2 Sharp Monkey, 8-1 Sim Prior, 10-1 Spring Beacon, 33-1 others

3.20 PETUNIA HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,000 added 7f

3.50 TULIP MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES (CLASS F) £3,000 added 2YO 5f

JACKIE'S BABY (17) W to be found as for the pool (18) M Centron 86. Paul Eddery 4 THE DONK (19) (BF) 8 Potitivel 85. Lose Wands (5) 3 THEE IN BOTTON Mrs G Pees 8 4. D Biggs 10 Dels Glason 7

BETTING: 11-4 Cyro, 100-30 Jackle's Boy, 5-1 Riek One Perking, 6-1 Poco, 7-1 Erkevele, 8-1 The Donk, 10-1 Classy Abelone, 16-1 Time in Motion, 20-1 Abbie Blueyes, 25-7 offices 4.20 BEGONIA SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) £2,500 added 6f

8 OSE-40 ONE TO GO (7) J Barry 3 8 9 P Bradby (7) 4 9 650-00 PICCOLO CATINO (10) (C) Mr. G Res 3 8 4 P F Norton 5 - 2 declared -BETTRIG: 13-8 Ice Age, 3-1 Bon Stzzie, 4-1 The Frisky Ferner, 7-1 One To Go, 18-1 Captain Carat, 12-1 Piccolo Cethvo, 18-1 Bolly, 25-1 Endad Sam, 33-1 Danni

4.50 FREESIA HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,000 added filles & mares 5f

perfeils, 14-1 Super Gell, 25-1 others

Afternoon results

16:1 28:1 16:1 25:1 Fach your amende the crick observed 2.3.4 C - Corel H - Was HILL - Lecturies, S - Starley T - Tale

CHESTER

2-10: 1. BLINDELL LANE (D Sweeney) 12-1; 2. Marton Moss 10-1; 3. Marties Price 8-1; 4. Magic Rainbow 10-1: 18 ran. 7-1 |t favs Fast Franc, Torrent (8th). 4 1/4. (A Jarvis, Didcot, Total £500; 5320 5370 5240 5320 DF: £22730. CSF: £11347 Theast: £985.53. 2,40: 1. BOOFARI MUKA (M 1-189) 5-4 fav;

2. Conwy Lodge 5-1; 3. Royal Origins 6-1 10 run. ¼, hd. (8 Hills, Lambourn). Tota: \$200; £100, £240, £210. DF: £720. CSF: £740. Tho: E1430. 3.10: 1, SILENCE IN COURT (A Mack-

Inc: 14.81.
3.10: 1. SILENCE IN COURT (A Mackay) 13-2; 2. Tumpole 6-1; 3. Leonato 33-1; 4. Cyrian 14-1; 18 ran. 1; 2 fav Top Cess. 2, ½. (A Bailey, Tarportey). Tota: 2640; 2150, 22.20, 2700, 24.00. DF: 22.00. CSF: 20.06.
Diract: 2122477. Tric: 2448490
3.43: 1. HIGH AND LOW (O Hohard) 4-1; 2. Rambling Rose 13-6 fav; 3. Due South 5-1, 8 ran. 8, 4. (B. Hills, Lembourn). Tota: 2470; 2170, 2120, 2150. DF: 22.20. CSF: 2272. 4.15: 1. EMCHANT (W. R. Swirburn) 4-1; 2. Aloha Dencer 7-2; 3. Musical Twist 11-8 fax, 8 ran. hd. 5, (M. Stoute, Newmarket). Tota: 2550; 2180, 2130, 2110. DF: 20.80. CSF: 27727. Tric: 2390. NR: Ashielph Balox. 4-85: 1. HIGH AND MIGHTY (R. Firanch) 10-1; 2. Durch Ladt 2-1; 3. Cinder Hills: 43-2. 11 ran. 7-2 fav Indimasi, ½. 1½. (J. Gooden, Newmarket). Tota: 2137, 2290, 2480, 2190. DF: 222850. CSF: 21572 Tricast: 277409. Tric: 258570.
Jackpot: not won. Pool of 29,798.25 carried forward to Chester roday.
Place 8: 2105. Place 5: 22209.

CHEPSTOW

2.20: 1, KILBRIDE LAD (R. Johnson) 1-2 fes; 2. Rainbow Szer 3-1; 3. Walk On By 11-2.4 ten. 2/s. 20. (D. Nicholson) Toke: £150. DF: £120. CSF: £286 2.50: 1, BRANIBLE-HILL, DUKE (S. Kely) 6-1; 2. Tienidjar 12-1; 3. Dovetto 3-1 far; 4. Macy 11-1 for ran. 3, 1/s. (Mass. Venetta Willerns). Rote: £700; £150, \$420, £150, £230. DF: £5150. CSF: £7284. Titoset: £24600. Trio: £1800.

\$19.00. 3.20; 1. WELL TIMED (C Maude) 10-1; 22-2: 3. Freddie Muck 3.20: 1. WELL TIMED (C Maude) 10-1; 2. General Pongo 13-2; 3. Freddie Mack 7-2 fax. 11 ran. strl-hd, 9. (R Prost). Total: ET70; 23.70, 22.20, 21.50, DF; 24.070, CSF; 259.83. Thosast: 25-448. Tho; 24.50.0 3.50: 1. FRANKIE HARRY (A Scholes) 16-1; 2. Kreef 9-2; 3. Not Forgotian 9-1 12 ran. 6-4 tay Woodstock Wandiers (Fel), dis., 1/4. (A Carroll, Total: 27.80; 22.70, 21.50, 22.50, DF; 20.740, CSF; 23.254. Tricest: 2546.82. This: 2567.20.

DF: 510740 CSF: 532.54 Tricest: £846.82
Tric: £167.20.
4.28: 1. FALSE TAIL (Mr. J Tizzard) 6-4
fav; 2. Owendowse 15-2: 3. Good Looking
Guy 25-1 15 ran. 8, hd. (R Barber) Total:
2290; 2130; 2270; 5450 DF: 5800 CSF:
£188. Tric: £7800 NR; Pale Crazy;
4.55: 1. GALATASORI JAME (Mr. J Tizzard) 12-2 distributes theriga (d. 1: 3 Giozard) 11-2; 2. Florricane Hanks 14-1; 3. Gie-vam 25-1; 4. Derring Bridge 10-1, 18 ran. 11-4 fav Seiza The Day 2, 1½ (P. Nichols). Total: £5.20; £1.20, £3.80, £7.90, £2.40, Dual Forecast: £64.90, CSF: £71.29, Tricast: £1898.38 Trio: £183.30 Piscepot: £8740. Quadpot: £1746 Pisce 6: £14728. Pisce 5: £9226. deat: £17.40.

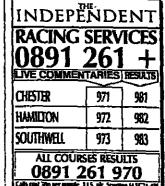
MUSSELBURGH 2.00: 1. THORNABY GIRL (J Carroll 5-1; 2. Red Symphony 11-4; 3. Granny Helen 10-1.8 ran. 5-5 fav Executive Event (4th). hd. 2. (7 D Barran, Thrais). Totac £8.50; £4.73. \$4.50. DF; £9.50. CSF; £18.58. Non Runner; Buette Sobre. Petite Sept. 2.30: 1. FEARLESS BRAVE (J Farring)

7-2; 2. Summerhill Special evens tax; 3 Rossel 7-1, 5 ran. 2, 8, (C Thornton, Md CSF: EB41. 3.00: 1, DALLY BOY (L Chemock) 14-1; 2, All On 3-1; 3. Northern Motto 7-1, 13 ran. 5-2 fav Sipstmarn. Ind. 11/2. (T Easterby, Mat-ton). Tota: £16.60; £3.60. £190, £5.20. DF; £22.40. CSF: £55.54. Tricest: £310.22. Tric: \$5780. 3.35: 1. BALLANTRAE BOY (J McAuley)

3.35: T. HALLAN I HAE DUT IN IMPROPY 7-4 fev; 2. Bewellife Grange 3-1; 3. Ger-nock Valley 7-2. 8 ran. 114, 31/2, (J. Gobies, Kilmernock). Tota: £2.60; £10), £2.0, £150. Dual Forecast. £3.40. CSF: £5.78. Tircast.

Kümernock) Tota: 12.50; E10, E20, E150. Dual Forecast: E340. CSF: E578. Tincast: E12.81.
4.05: 1. CIRCUITEER (C Lowfled) 4-1; 2. Sleapy Bathy 50-1; 3. Howlee Choice 7-2.9 ran. 5, ½, [J Berry, Cockerham), Tota: E420; E150, E370; E10. DF: E33990 CSF: £16057. Trio: 573-30.
4.36: 1. GENURNE JOHN (L Charnock) 11-2; 2. Imputative Air 5-1; 3. Coamilo Case 9-1. 14 ran. 5-1 fav. Up in Flamas, 3½, ½, (J Parkes, Malton). Tota: £750; £2.5, £2.90, £330. DF: £32.60. CSF: £34.82, Trioast: £361.28. Trio: £260.30, part won. Pool of E281.29. Trio: £260.30, part won. Pool of £2533 to Chester 4.40 today. Placepot: £2530. Quadpot: £10.10. Place 6: £4688, Place 5: £7794.

Evening results, page 29



Inadequate rules on weight loss give cause for grave concern

ly to make a full recovery from the room for even closer scrutiny. brain injury he sustained at the Royal Albert Hall last Saturday ought not of boxing.

Medical safeguards put in place seven years ago after Michael a violent defeat against Chris Eubank were unquestionably critical to Oliver's welfare when he collapsed in the ring after being knocked out fortable at the poundage and was, by Sergei Devakov in defence of the in common with many of his con-

make the hardest sport entirely caution advises. safe, but as Oliver is the third fighter to be seriously hurt in a British

NEWS that Spencer Oliver is like-ring since June last year there is

Oliver's relieved manager, Jess Harding, who cannot be held acto suggest that everything possible countable, insists that the 23-yearhas been done to lessen the perils old from Barnet experienced no problems in making the stipulated super-bantamweight limit of 8st 10ib despite being a few ounces over Watson was left paralysed following shortly before he went to the scales

Oliver found himself entirely com-European super-bantamweight title. temporaries, perhaps fighting low-Of course, it is impossible to er down the weight scale than

between dehydration and brain administrators.

damage, plenty of people in boxing believe that the British Board's guidelines on weight loss are inadequate. Certainly, no more impor-tant issue should have been on the Board's agenda when it met yester-

To my mind, it is no coincidence that heavyweights, for whom an appearance on the scales is a mere formality, are seldom involved in However, it is unlikely that the kind of incident that again brought deep anxiety to the ringside last Saturday.

The manager who told me this week of fighters and trainers attempting to cheat on weight was speaking of a matter that should be Acting on the established link be addressed urgently by the sport's



KEN IONES

ening. In 1990, after a hard contest against Chris Eubank for the World Boxing Organisation middleweight championship that saw him stopped in the ninth round, it was revealed

48 hours before the weigh-in; this in the week that a communication warned managers of the dangers associated with dehydration.

If the introduction of "junior" or "super" championships enabled boxers to avoid the weakening affect of trying to come in below their natural weight, the problem has not the ring considerably heavier than been eliminated. Responsibility rests with the boxing authorities but an important truth is that the fighters emselves cannot be trusted:

a famous picture shows the former days of preparation and taking a laxworld flyweight champion, Jackie ative. Patterson of Scotland, after being

that Nigel Benn was 51b overweight knocked out in the seventh round by Rinty Monaghan. Looking as though just released from a concentration from the Commonwealth body had camp, Patterson had spent the night before the contest sitting tiext to a boiler wrapped in a blanket.

A world-wide decision to move weigh-ins back 24 hours has alleviated the most serious problems in weight making (fighters often enter they were on the scales) but the damage may already have been done by miscalculation. One fighter admits privately that he got with-Taken long before big changes in in weight for a title contest only by the administration of British boxing, starving himself for the final two

The terrible injuries sustained by

defending the World Boxing Council super-middleweight title against Nigel Benn brought about stricter monitoring of weight before championship contests. What this suggests is that some boxers and trainers are

As I stated in the aftermath of last week's disturbing experience, some of us who have been around boxing for many years and think it to be the most basic, natural and uncomplicated of athletic competitions have been given cause to wonder whether it is worth the candle.

This is not to suggest that Oliver and his associates took chances. But those who do must be punished with the utmost severity.

Jansen's low-key approach faces final passion test

throw away another chance to clinch the Scottish League title last weekend, conceding a late equaliser to Dunfermline. Their failure inspired Charlie Nicholas to muse: "There is one massive ter that result. I honestly believe that if Celtic blow the title, they will never recover from it."

Nicholas, a former Parkhead idol and the kind of exciting and effective striker who would not go amiss in the green and white hoops now, clearly fears for the effect on morale of blowing the chance to break Rangers' stranglehold on the title after 10 years.

The understated Wim Jansen has had only 10 months everyone by surprise, but the shock was as nothing when compared to Jansen's intro-

Dutch international has admitted that he did not quite comprehend the scale of the Old Firm's grip on the people who follow them. Anything less than need from their final league match at home to St Johnstone on Saturday to edge out Rangers and deny their greatest rivals that record 10th title and, it seems, the club might disintegrate.

Celtic's 45,000 season ticket holders - an average attendance of 50,000 has made the club the ninth best supported in Europe - have already bought their seats for next season. But whether they and the thousands of children who flood the club superstore will continue to do so on the back of a championship capitulation is questionable.

The ripples of failure will spread far and wide, too. Celtic have more than 2,000 registered supporters in Toronto

NERVOUSNESS led Celtic to On Saturday Celtic have a last chance to stop Rangers taking a 10th successive Scottish title. Phil Gordon looks at the man behind the team

cloud hanging over the club af- United States and Australia and cost in the Uefa Cup. Yet deeven one recently exiled Glasgow priest in São Paulo who keeps up the Celtic Web site. Those who Jansen's caution has neutered follow one of Europe's biggest clubs will be willing Jansen, this commit to attack, even if it had most cosmopolitan of coaches, to perform the most parochial of jobs: to put one over on Rangers.

It not an exaggeration to suggest that the future of an organisation which had a turnover of more than £21m last year and is worth about £100m on the as Celtic's manager to steer the stock market rests on the shoulclub out of that nightmare ders of a quiet man who seems the fact that their goal touch has decade. His arrival caught to have silenced a tradition of passion on the pitch.

> stilled any criticism of his own Arsenal team which is the antithesis of its coach, his old admerely made Celtic in his image.

> Wenger and Jansen encoun-J.League where Wenger coached Grampus Eight and Jansen was in charge of Sanfrecce Hiroshima. Both met scepticism when they beat more favoured names to land two of the biggest jobs in Britain. In Jansen's case, it was Bobby Robson, whom most Celtic fans, and the club chairman, Fergus McCann, had pinned their hopes on; at the time the former England manager was stepping down at Barcelona.

Jansen has had to win over a lot doubters, which he began to do after disastrously giving Rangers a six-point start in the league by losing the opening two

alone. There are more in the Liverpool almost found to their spite a four-month unbeaten league run that ended in the reto date with his other faith via cent defeat by Rangers at Ibrox, a side that is now too scared to the resources.

Supporters who gorged themselves last season on 70 goals alone from their erstwhile strikers Pierre van Hooijdonk, Jorge Cadete and Paolo Di Canio have been fed a meagre 62 Premier goals this term. Three wins in the last eight matches reflects deserted them during the run-in. Quite what the Dutchman

While Arsène Wenger has makes of it is a mystery. Jansen. who has a clause in his three-year duction to Glaswegian rivalries. uncharismatic presence by pro-contract that would allow him to The 53-year-old former ducing a brash and eyecatching bail out at the end of the season, only speaks to the media at preand post-match conferences and versary north of the border has does not do one-to-one interviews. The man who played in two World Cup finals for the the three points which Celtic tered each other in Japan's Dutch may be, as Johan Cruyff said of his former colleague, "one of only four people in the world worth talking football to" but few outside his Parkhead dressing-room can testify to that.

Jansen's players defend his honour. 'Wim treats you like an adult," the central defender Alan Stubbs said. "He asks your opinion, even if it's a critical one. Let's just say that he is a bit different to Bruce Rioch, my manager at Bolton."

In the spirit of Dutch free thinking. Jansen ditched the traditional hotel hideaway before big games. "The players said they would prefer to be at home matches. He made Celtic a rather than stuck in a hotel a way tighter, more compact side who from their own beds," the midwere more tactically aware: as fielder Phil O'Donnell explained,



"so he agreed. He tries to make it as low key as possible." Maybe too low-key. Celtic It was not pressure that cost us

have lacked the spark that char- at Dunfermline but one goal acterised previous generations of sible to be low key on Saturday against St Johnstone with a title at stake? That is Jansen's aim.

"We know there will be a lot of tension," he said after the dis-

appointment at East End Park train as normal and behave as last Sunday, "But we can cope.

that came out of nothing. Othgreen and white. Will it be pos- erwise, we were seven minutes away from winning the league.

"Everyone keeps asking us about the pressures of the Cruyff and Johan Neeskens. championship. I don't want my Yet any attempt to elicit an players thinking that, so we anecdote or two has proved

fruitless. Like his side he gives nothing away. "I don't like looking back," he says. "It is the same Jansen the player was in the here. Anything that has gone Feyenoord team who defeated Celtic to win the European Cup wrong is in the past, so I forget in 1970, and in the great Dutch it and move on to the next team he was the grafting presence behind the flamboyance of Celtic's supporters will know

by 4.40pm on Saturday if Jansen has given them cause to look

Equestrianism

By Genevieve Murphy

IAN STARK could have three

horses shortlisted for Octo-

Stark to let loose

on The Moose

Numan follows coach to Rangers

By Rupert Metcalf

RANGERS yesterday began their summer rebuilding programme by agreeing to pay a reported £5m for PSV Eindhoven's Dutch international defender, Arthur Numan

The 29-year-old left-back, who is expected to be a starter for the Netherlands at the World Cop, is following the PSV coach, Dick Advocaat, who is replacing Walter Smith at Ibrox, to Scotland.

"This is my first buy for Rangers and there will be a minimum of three others - maybe from Holland or maybe from other countries," Advocast said.

Not so happy was the PSV chairman, Harry van Raay. He said: "I-am disappointed because Numan has chosen to go to Rangers, which I cannot understand. If I was a player, I would not have chosen Scotland for my career."

Juninho, Atletico Madrid's former Middlesbrough midfielder, yesterday expressed his frustration over his omission from Brazil's World Cup squad.

Brazil's coach, Mario Zagallo, said on Tuesday when naming the squad that he was concerned about Jumpho's fitness after a three-month absence following a broken ankle

suffered in early February. However, yesterday Juninho said: "I have totally recovered. I did everything I could to be ready to play in the World Cup.

"There are certain players who do not maintain good discipline and yet bag all the prizes going. I am going to have to reflect whether it's worth having that discipline or not."

Ron Noades, the Crystal Palace chairman, has helped pave the way for the completion of the sale of the club to Mark Goldberg by loaning him money to buy the freehold to Selhurst Park, which Goldberg needs as security on Palace's £5m overdraft. Noades said yesterday that he had received invitations to buy four other clubs, including Brentford.

All eyes on Luyt as Springboks fear boycott

Rugby Union

By Chris Hewett

VERNON PUGH and the International Rugby Board may consider England's Premiership clubs to be the root of any evil to be found in the world game, but the forces propelling South Africa towards another debilitating period of isolation make the political ructions at Twickenham look like a church tire 13-man executive with him.

with lawyers to prepare the ground for legal action in the event of a cancellation of this summer's tour programme.

The country's National Sports Council has given Louis Luyt, the self-styled Mr Big of Springbok rugby, until the end of today to resign as president of the South African Rugby Football Union and take his en-

bok Test players were meeting meet in Johannesburg, was expected to stand firm in spite of appeals from provincial unions, major sponsors, broadcasters and players, including Chester Williams, the only black member of the Springboks' 1995

World Cup-winning squad. "If they dig in, we've got trouble on our hands," said one Sarfu insider yesterday. "The NSC will not be content with asking unions around the world to can-

fête. Today, the leading Spring- The Sarfu hierarchy, due to cel their summer tours. They will behind the NSC, I believe they president is the one who can also go straight to government could bring about a boycott." level and say they cannot guarantee the safety of rugby tourists. A boycott would almost certainly mean the Springbok players taking court action for loss of earnings. After all, their livelihood is at stake."

England, Ireland, Wales, Australia and New Zealand are all scheduled to play in South Africa over the next four months. "With the government

said Keith Parkinson, president of the powerful Natal province. "I don't even want to think about that. This province be-racism, nepotism and corruption lieves that the solution is for Dr Luyt to stand down, but I doubt very much if it will happen."

Williams, an enduring symbol of the 1995 "Rainbow Nation" Springboks, pleaded with Luyt to quit. "I think the tours should go ahead and the Sarfu save them by resigning," said the Western Province wing.

The NSC has accused Luyt and his colleagues of allowing to contaminate their running of the game and were angered by the union's decision to force President Mandela into testifying in court during Sarfu's successful blocking of a move to appoint a legal commission

subishi Motors Badminton Horse Trials which begin today in Gloucestershire. Stark has already impressed with Arakai (10th in the Euro-Norman hints at retirement

pean Open Championships at Burghley last year) and with his most recent acquisition, Saucy Brown (fourth in the inaugural four-star contest in Kentucky last month). The Moose, who was fifth at Blenheim last year, could add further distinction to Stark's yard in the Scottish Borders.

The Moose has very good movement, so he is capable of doing well in the dressage," Stark said. "But he is a bit spooky and he may want to have a good look at the judges' boxes." Despite his size, the big horse has proved to be neat and nimble across country.

If well-placed after Satur-

lieved to know that his partner is usually a reliable show jumper. Last year the Scot dropped from first to 13th with five show jumping errors on Stanwick Ghost

ber's World Equestrian Games In the absence of Mary King in Italy if The Moose, a giant of (whose two top borses have sus-18 hands, achieves a good alltained minor injuries) and William Fox-Pitt (who has broround performance in the Mitken his ankle) Stark and Christopher Bartle will be the only members of Britain's winning European Championship team competing at Badminton. As always, they will be keeping a sharp look-out for the New Zealanders - in particular the Olympic gold medallists, Mark Todd and Blyth Tait.

Todd will be riding Broadcast News, the winner at Burghley last year. Tait partners Aspyring and his 1996 Olympic champion, Ready Teddy. The charged atmosphere may, however, prove distracting for Ready Teddy in the dressage, "Ted won't find it easy in that atmosphere, though he is more mature this year," Tait said of the 10-year-old. It would be helpful if the horse's memory of his thrilling victory lap m Atlanta, where he took a reckday's big test. Stark will be re-cheering spectators, has faded. less gallop in front of 20,000

McRae's Corsican triumph

Rallying

COLIN McRAE became the first driver to win two rounds of this year's world championship yesterday after his victory in the Corsica Rally. The Scot, driving a Subaru İmpreza, finished ahead of the Frenchman François Delecour and Italy's Piero Liatti.

McRae, who also won the same rally last year, has now taken two of the six championship rounds so far this season and overtakes Carlos Sainz, of Spain, at the top of the standings.

McRae, who survived a disqualification scare for illegal tyres on Monday, finished the "Rally of 10,000 Corners" 27.2sec clear of Delecour, who was driving a Peugeot 306 Maxi. 35 points, ahead of Mitsubishi

He had an overall time of 4hr 2min 46.9sec, with teammate Liatti less than three sec-

points after six of 14 events. ahead of Sainz (22) and England's Richard Burns (18). Sainz had a miserable day. Lying in second after the mid-

eighth after his Toyota suffered mechanical problems. Subaru - seeking a fourth straight title - now lead the constructors' championship with

and Toyota on 32 and Ford (25). • The China Rally will be included in the world championds behind Delecour in third. onship next season, the The win puts McRae in pole International Automobile Fedposition in the title race on 24 eration president, Max Mosley. said yesterday. However, the number of rallies, which stands at 14, would almost certainly not be increased. "The problem is logistics and transport for the dle leg, he slipped back to "teams," he said.

GREG NORMAN has given his strongest hint yet that he may be ready to quit the game. Norman, who is out of action for five months after undergoing shoulder surgery, claimed yesterday that he will pack up his clubs forever if he is unable to rekindle his enthusiasm for the sport. "I get more pain than pleasure now by going to the golf course," the Australian said.

"That has to change or I'll hang them up - in a heartbeat - if I can't turn that around."

Norman, who turned 43 in majors in play-offs, will miss he would review his career in the year 2000. But with his business career blooming and his success on the course wan-

retiring before the millennium Before going under the surgeon's knife, Norman's form this year was uncharacteristically poor. The world's top-ranked golfer for most of the past decade has slipped to No 4 in the rankings.

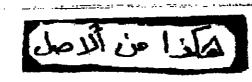
ing. Norman has not ruled out

Norman, who holds the dubious honour of being the only player in history to lose all four one I want to win."

February, has always said that this year's three remaining majors.
"I think people believe I'm more tormented than I really

am (about losing majors). The Masters I blew to Faldo in 1996, I was back in the office the next day," Norman said. "If my kids can see what [my wife] Laura and I have left them when we're gone, and say

'thanks', yet still retain their initiative to do more and do better, then that's more important that the US Masters. That's the tournament of life. That's the



Saints to lend

youngsters

Rugby League

ST HELENS are planning to

lend three of their most promis-

ing young players to their sister

club in Worcester. Saints want

to broaden the experience of

by letting them play for the Mid-

lands side - also the Saints - in

David Howes, said that the

League had been asked to give

the go-ahead to the ground-

breaking scheme. "We have

put a lot of work into our twin-

ning arrangement with Worces-

ter and would be all in favour

of some of our young players

turning out for them - but only

if we can get a policy decision

St Helens' prop forward,

Apollo Perelini, will start his first

Super League match of the

season at Bradford on Sunday

after recovering from a knee in-

jury he suffered in March. Paul

Sculthorpe will also return af-

50-50 proposition to start his first

Super League game this year fol-

Keiron Cunningham is a

ter a thigh strain.

from the League," he said.

The club's chief executive,

Dave Hadfield

reports from Canterbury

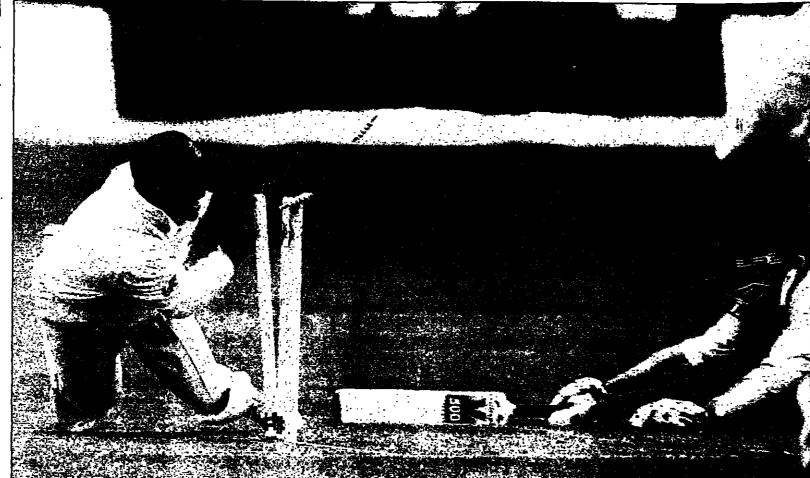
Kenz 260; Surrey 261-6 Surrey win by four wickets

ENGLAND'S two captains had one of those days at Canterbury vesterday. One fell on his sword. the other was put to it. The dismissals of the Test captain, Alec Stewart, and Adam Hollioake, England's one-day leader, looked suspect at the very least. Honour was served though as holders Surrey, in beating Kent in a reprise of last year's Benson and Hedges Cup final, moved through to a home tie in the quarter-finals.

They did so with the help of yet another superbly judged half century - his third on the trot in this competition this season from the Gold Award winner Graham Thorpe. The England left-hander finished unbeaten on 85 as he saw Surrey home with three overs to spare.

There was never any chance that Stewart would contest Min Patel's claim for a caught and bowled. He was barely 24 hours into his new job and would not want a controversial start to his reign. But although the third umpire was not called, television replays indicated that the return drive by Stewart was grounded before being embraced awkwardly by Kent's slow left-arm

The umpire John Harris did not spot anything wrong and Stewart, after a nano second's hesitation, walked before the umpire could raise his finger, hav-



Surrey's Alec Stewart, the new England captain, runs out Kent's Alan Wells at Canterbury yesterday

Photograph: Peter Jay

ing made a good-looking 40. Later Patel said: "As far as I was concerned I caught the ball cleanly." Stewart said: "Min nodded his head. The umpire nodded his head. I've got no problems with Min. I wandered off."

Adam Hollioake replaced

again. He was within sight of his half-century when Matthew Fleming sent down a leg-side wide. The ball rebounded off the wicketkeeper Steve Marsh's chest and gloves before dislodging the bails. The replay showed Hollioake was not out him and the boodoo struck of his ground when the bail was

Harris at square leg.

To suffer one run-out may be deemed unfortunate, to suffer two an unlucky coincidence, but when he fell for 69. for Kent to allow three was downright careless. Matthew Kent, in the same over they had

stumping was upheld by umpire outs, and only Walker's could be brilliance. The others were foolish. Hooper was in full flow

To make matters worse for

Northants lost in Maddy world

This pair laid the foundation

for a win which was achieved

dislodged, but the appeal for a Hooper all departed to run- a belligerent half century in better than even time. He fell to the put down to the opposition's leg-spinner Ian Salisbury, who ended with a very respectable 2 for 36. Thankfully Marsh was able to flay the Surrey attack for 18 brutal balls in which he made 37, including two sixes in Walker, Alan Wells and Carl already lost Mark Ealham after Saglain Mushtag's last over.

make the most of a hard, dry

pitch which was a credit to

claims of retirement

Tennis

THOMAS MUSTER confounded the seedings yesterday when he became the first player to reach the third round of the German Open in Hamburg and then launched a scathing attack on claims that he was ready to

French Open champions against the third-seeded Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia and then said he had the feeling that "people have been trying to bury me alive".

item on the official ATP website, which was the opinion of a doctor who Muster said had not seen for six months "I read o They could scarcely claim | the ATP Internet that I was preparing for retirement, which is bullshit," Muster said.

British No 1 Greg Rusedski is the No 2 seed for the Stella Ar-

lowing a groin operation. Wigan have contacted Saints officially to deny reports that they are trying to sign Cunningham in time for next season.

The consortium bidding for a Super League franchise for Cardiff has the verbal agreement of four international playsome of their Academy players ers based in Australia that they would join the club for its inaugural season. The players the Rugby League Conference. three Australians and a New Zealander - have all had talks about coming to the Welsh capital next season.

The consortium has also discussed the possibility of playing at the Cardiff Bay Stadium when it is built early in the millennium, although its initial home would be with the Cardiff rugby union team at the Arms Park. Cardiff faces competition for the franchise from Swansea, which already has the backing of Super-League's managing director, Maurice Lindsay.

The former Australian Test forward, Rod Reddy, could look to Britain after being sacked as coach by the Adelaide Rams. Reddy, who once coached Barrow, has been replaced by the former Perth coach, Dean Lance.

Muster slams

Musterwon a battle of former

Muster was incensed at an

But he would be wise not to make | tois Championships. Tim Hena habit of hanging around as long man is sixth seed for the event as he did here once the umpire's at the Queen's Club, London,

Maloney denies offer to Couch

Boxing

THE boxing promoter Frank Maloney yesterday denied that he made an offer to stage contests involving Jane Couch, Britain's only female world boxing champion.

Couch had an application for professional licence rejected last year, but she claimed sexual discrimination against the British Boxing Board of Control and an industrial tribunal ruled in her favour. She has now been recommended for a licence by the BBBC's Western Area Council.

"I have been losing big money without that precious piece aner they call a licent Couch said. "Before Christmas I had to turn down £10,000 at Wembley from Maloney."

However, Maloney said that offer was made by someone else and added: "I will not work on any show featuring a women boxer. I flatly deny making any

House party piece

WILL HOUSE produced a abysmal fielding display after memorable all-round performance as the British Universities shocked Gloucestershire with a seven-run victory - desoite a defiant, unbeaten century from Jack Russell - in the Benson and Hedges Cup at Bristol yesterday.

The 22-year-old Kent player House blasted 64 off just 44 58 to take the Gold Award and off just 44 deliveries. peg Gloucestershire at 272 for 9, notwithstanding Russell's one-day best 119 not out and 93 rom Tony Wright.

Gloucestershire only had themselves to blame after winning the toss. Russell and

Wright's 93 was scored off 99 deliveries with 10 boundaries - and together they seemed to have turned the game Gloucestershire's way. But the students held some excellent catches in the closing stages and capitalised on some woeful efforts

reports from Northampton Northamptonshire 198-9 Leicestershire 199-2 Leicestershire win by eight wickets

Mike Carey

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE have invariably been slow starters in recent seasons and events here yesterday, when they were outclassed from start to finish by Leicestershire, will hardly have done much for morale in their dressing-room.

Hedges Cup win in 19 years. The improve when a few batsmen inned in his correct upright manage to find their touch, most importantly perhaps Rob Bailey, around whom so much cliffe, who seems to see the ball seems to be built; but they could only have watched Leicestershire's Darren Maddy and Iain Sutcliffe with admiration and a certain amount of envy.

groundsman David Bates. with 10 overs to spare, by putting Northamptonshire's failure to on 123 together. As a left and right-hand combination, they capitalise on it after winning the made the most of the generous toss was the key to their downwidth offered them. But there fall. Leicestershire certainly was more to it. There appears bowled fast and straight on it, not least Alan Mullally who to be a vacancy for an opener found that off-stump line which for England team and if new blood is required, the credentials has batsmen uncertain whether of not only Maddy, who had a to play at him or leave well wonderful A team tour last alone. Once Mal Loye had winter, but his partner, are worgone first ball, choosing the first thy of close examination. option, Northamptonshire were

ddy almost oldtechnique, was a joy to watch. The angular, left-handed Sutearlier than most, has many of the characteristics of Bill Lawry, not least around his off stump. Together they closed the door on Northamptonshire and

Coventry's former FA Cup-winning captain Brian Kilcline was yesterday one of six first-team squad members to be released by Halitax Town.

Southarroton have given a free trans-fer to the third choice goalkeeper Dar-ryl Flahavan, who is having trials at Notis County. The Pyear-old has de-cided to leave the Dell because Paul Jones and Neil Moss are ahead of him to the graphs.

In the queue.

Jimmy Poyd Hasselbaink has been named Leeds Player of the Year in his first season in English footbel. The Surjeam-born striker has scored 22 goals in all competitions for Leeds and is in

contention for a place in Holland's World

Cup squad. Norwegian midfielder or de-fender formny Knarvik, 18, was named Leeds Young Player of the Year.

Luton Town's captain Gary Waddock yesterday armounced his retirement as

a player after 18 years and 573 appearances. He is the new Academy Un-der-17 coach at Queen's Park Rangers.

The Bristol Rovers forward Jamle Cureton suffered a hairline fracture of his left leg against Brentford last Saturday and will miss the Second Divi-

in the queue.

they were unlucky except perhaps David Capel, who was given out ibw to a ball he was aiming to glance from around leg stump. decision has been clearly given. starting on June 8.

named as the new coach of the Ger-man Second Division club Fortuna Cologne. He is currently a goalkeep-ing coach with Borussia Dortmund.

Ing coach with Borussia Dortmund.
BELGIUM PRELMINARY WORLD CUP
SOLIAD: Goalisespers: De Wilde (Anderlectri), Verländen (Cath Bruges), Vande
Welle (Endnacht Assi), Defenders: Borkelmans (Club Bruges), Deffandre (Club
Bruges), Leonard (Monaco), Staelens (Club
Bruges), Craeson (Nepoli), Vidovit: (Excelsior Mouscron), Van Mair (Lierse), De
Boack (Anderschi), Verstmatten (Germin)
Estern), Michialders: Boffin (Metz), Ven der
Eist (Chi Bruges), Van Kerkhoner

Boock (Anderickh), Verstrasten (Spirintel Beren), Michieldere: Bofflin (Metz), Ven der Elek (Chih Bruges), Van Kerckhoven (Liese), Wilmots (Schalle), Crement (Gark), Claeseere (Chib Bruges), Scillo (Anderisch), Forwards: Gooseere, (Schalle), L. lifpen-za (Standard Libge), M Mperzza (Standard Libge), Mille (PSV Brudoven), Ottvekra (Fiorentine), Verbeyen (Club Bruges), ROMANIAN CUP FINAL (Bucharrest): David is urburest 1 Universitätisa Cratora (I.

South Korean judo authorities hope to

Pools dividends

CORSICA RALLY Finel standings: 1 C McRee (68) suberu impreza 4fr 2mins 489sec 2 F Delecour (Fr) Pauged 306 Mexi plus 272sec 3 P Listři (f) Suberu impreza +300 4 G Penizel (Fr) Pauged 306 Mexi +301 5 B Thiry (Bel) Ford Escort +458 6 D Airful (Fr) Toyota Corolle plus 2min 393sec 7 F Desnier (Fr) (Zhoen Xsara +4501 8 C Sairz (Sp) Toyota Corolle +4405 9 J Kamidunen (Fr) Tord Escort +4478 10 P Megand (Fr) Citroen Xsara +8:122
WORLD CHAMPPONSHIP STANDINGS (after six rounds of 14): 1 McRee (GS) 24 pls 2 C Sairz (Sp) 22 3 R Burns (GS) 16 4 J Kanidumen (Fri) 16 5 D Auriol (Fr) 15 6 T Maskinsn (Fri) 14 7 F Loix (Se) 10 8 P Listri (II) 8 9 A Vatianen (Fri) 6 8 9 F Delecour (Fr) 6 11 G Parizel (Fr) 4 Meantacharna: standings: 1 Suberu 35 pts 2 Mitsubishi 32 3 Toyota 32 4 Ford 25.

Richard Burns has decosed his World

Richard Burns has deposed his World Championship rival Colin McRae at the top of the British Raily Driver Rankings. SONY/VOLKSWAGEN BRITISH RALLY DRIVER RANKINGS: 1 R Burns 2 C McRae 3 M Rowe 4 A McRae 5 M Higgins.

Rugby League The former Perth coach Deen Lance was named yesterday as the coach of the Adelaide Rams for the rest of the Australian National Rugby League season. Lance replaces Rod Reddy, who was sacked on Tuesday along with two other senior club officials.

Pridget Suckling had a narrow escape yesterday when she was swept briefly over the side into the Atlantic during the Whitbread Round the World Race.

ROMANIAN CUP FINAL (Bucharrest):
Rapid Bucharest 1 Universitates Craiova 0.
TUESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: FA Carling
Promilarahly: Crystal Palace 3 West Ham 3.
Ryman League Buredian Insurance Cup
final: Oxford City 1 Surtion Uzd 6. Uniteport
United Counties League Premier Division:
Ford Sports 4 Statiold 3; Wellingborough 0
S&L Corby 1; Synesbury 0 Bourne 1 Amost
Insurance Northern League First Division:
Rem Newcastle 4 Easington 0. United Sussex County League First Division: Rechill
3 Ringmar 0. Serewitz Direct League Presiler Division: Bridghester 1 Brisington 2.
North West Counties League First Division:
Anherton LB 1 Newcastle Town 1 Northern
Counties East League Premier Division:
North Ren'by 3 Ecclephil 1, Pontina League
Premier Division: Busy 1 York
City 0. League Cup final: Sheffield Utd 1
Rotterfam 0. Auon Insurance Combination
First Division: Ansenal 2 Welford 0; Cirelton 0 Tolsrehman 3; Southempton 0 Milwell
1 Ueth Under-16 Championenip (Sectland)
Sassi-finals: Republic of Ireland 2 Portugal
o; Spein 1 Italy 2.

Ice Inockey Whitipread Hound the World Haze, Sucking a member of the all-woman crew on EF Education, was helping to change a sail 650 miles out from Annapolis, Maryland, when she was picked up by a wave. Attached to the boat by her safety harness, she had to body surf the Atlantic rollers until hauled back on board. Ice hockey WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP Group D: Laivia 7 Kazahistan 2 (in Basie). Group C: Swe-den 6 United States 1 (in Zurich). field a joint team with North Korea for the World Cup in September in Min-sk, Belarus.

haufed back on board.
WHITEREAD ROUND THE WORLD RACE
Eighth seg (3,330 miles, Amegodis, US, to
La Rochelle, Ph): 1 Swedish Metch (Swe)
2,735 miles to finish; 2 Brunel Sunergy (Neth)
13 miles behind leader; 3 Mert Cup (Moneco) +22; 4 Teshiba (US) +43; 5 immoration
(Memeric (Not) +64; 6 EF Language (Swe)
+81; 7 Sik Cut (GE) +10; 8 EF Education
(Swe) +183; 9 Chesse Racing (US) +22. **Swimming**

Richard Upton, an Australian swimmer who was let off with a warning after failing a doping test, has been given

added. Richard Johnson sent Kil-

bride Lad on at the fifth hurdle

from home and the pair kept up

a three-month ban by the international a time-month can by the international Court of Arbitration. Upton, who won a relay silver medal at this year's drugtainted World Championships in Perth, tested positive for the masking agent probended in an out-of-competition test on 17 February.

on 17 reoruary.

Birgit-Helite Matz, a former East German swimmer, told a Berlin court yesterday that she had been given performance-enhancing drugs from the age of 14 white competing for the former communist state. She said she developed both befur but and collected by veloped body heir and noticed her voice deepen after being ordered to take "little blue pills" which, the pros-

Britain's No 2 Karen Cross was beaten 2-6 6-4 6-1 by fourth seeded Amelie Cocheteux of France in a first round match in Cardiffs Women's Challenger tournament. ITALIAN WOMEN'S OPEN (Rome): First

Jenger tourneament.

ITALIAN WOMEN'S O'PEN (Rome): First round: C Torrens-Valero (Sp) bt B Schultz-NicCerthy (183 4-8 6-2 6-3; S Williams (US) bt N Tauchet (Fr) 7-5 6-9 Second round: M Pierce (Fr) bt S Phinowsky (Fr) 6-1 6-2; M Selea (US) bt S Farina (N) 6-2 6-1; M Regol (Cros) bt J Kanderr (Ser) 4-6 6-4 6-4; S Testud (Fr) bt B Schert (Aut) 4-6 6-2 6-3; D Van Floost (Bel) bt N Savennetsu (Japan) 6-4 6-4; S Williams (US) bt J Kruper (SA) 5-1 rethred; R Dragomir (Rom) bt J Kruper (SA) 5-2 6-2; A Sanchrez Vicario (Sp) bt C Valero (So) 6-3 7-5; C Marnnez (Sp) bt F Perfett (II) 6-1 4-6-3; I Spriea (Rom) bt V Pluano Pescual (Sp) 6-3 7-6; A Fusal bt J Novotra (CZ Rep) 2-6-7-6 6-3; M Hingis (Swit) bt Feng Li (China) 6-3 6-3 7-6; A Fusal bt J Novotra (CZ Rep) 2-6-7-6 6-3; M Hingis (Swit) bt Feng Li (China) 6-3 6-3 7-6; A Fusal bt J Lock (Cron) bt E Liktonsera (Pus) 3-6 6-2 6-2.

ATP RED CLAY CHAMPIONSHIP (Floridia, US): First round: V Spacies (US) bt A Clement (Fi) 6-4 7-5; D Sanguinett (II) bt S Sargsien (Arm) 3-6 6-3 7-5; P Nobjecto (Par) bt C Pluck (Ger) 7-6 6-1; J Van Hinck (Bei) bt C Vinck (Ger) 7-6 6-1; J Van Hinck (Bei) bt M Jensen (US) 6-3 6-2. M Tebbutt (Aus) bt M Jensen (US) 6-3 6-2.

ox M. Jersen (LS) 6-3 6-2.
GERMAN OPEN (Harsbarg) Second round:
T. Muster (Aur) bt Y. Kaleinkov (Flus) 6-4 6-2:
J. Kribpschild (Ger) bt F. DelMaif (Bel) 6-4 6-3;
F. Marstilla (Sp) bt B. Lifrach (Cz. Pap) 8-4
6-2; F. Sangtoro (Fr) bt T. Hans (Ger) 6-4 6-4;
A. Berasstagui (Sp) bt M. Gustafsson (Swe) 6-3
6-3; W. Ferreira (SA) bt M. Rios (Chile) 3-6
6-4 B-3.

TOCLOGIU
THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP Final second fag: Everton (3) v Blackburn Rovers (1) (8.05).
PONTINS LEAGUE Premier Division: Leeds v Blackburn (70) tat Halifax Town). First Division: Coverany v Grimsby (70) Second Division: Lincoln City v Rotherham (70).
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First Division: Brighton v Wimbledon (70); Milwell v Tottenham (20); Charlton v Chelsea (70).

Division: AUSSEC CAUNTY LEAGUE Piret Division: AND AUSTE COUNTIES LEAGUE Premier Division: Ford Sports v Weling-borough (730).

PREMIER LEAGUE: Sheffield v Newport (745).

Cricket scoreboard Benson & Hedges Cup

Durham v Scotland CHESTER-LE-STREET: Durham best Scot-land by two wickets. Scotland won toss SCOTLAND

B M W Patterson lbw b Betts

B G Locket c Speight b Wood

P A Parsons c Speight b Killeen

J E Brittley run out nd b Killeen J deG Allingham not out G Davies not out tras (lb23, w18, nb7) Total (for 6, 50 overs) _____210 FeB: 1-26, 2-135, 3-194, 4-194, 5-194, 6-208.

rase: 1-50, 2-154, 0-154, 4-154, 5-154, 6-208. Did not bat: C M Wright, Asam Burt, N R Dysr. Brusfing: Batts 10-2-32-1; Wood 10-1-30-2; Kilsen 10-0-84-2; Foster 10-2-25-0; Boiling 10-0-35-0.

Did not bat: J Wood DMC Not Dec. 3 **** ONC. ***
Bowling: Asim Butt 10-1-52-0; Brinday 83-0-48-1; Wngft 9-2-43-2; Dyer 10-0-21-1; deG Allingham 10-0-43-2 Umplires: N T Plews and R A White.

Gioucs v British Univ BRISTOL: British Universities Gloucestershire by seven runs BRITISH UNIVERSITIES

A Singh of Russell b Alleyre
J P Pyemort live b Lewis

M J Crition of Alleyre b Bail

G R Loveridge of Bail b Waish

L 3 Sutton not out

A J Strauss not out Extras (b2, lb1), w/4, nb6) ..

Extres (b2, b10, w/4, nb6) 32

Total (for 5, 50 overs) 279

Falt; 1-7, 2-103, 3-148, 4-192, 5-240.

Did not bet: 1T M B Bailey, R S C MartinJenidre, B L Hatton, M K Davies.

Bowling: Walsh (b2-35-1; Lewis 10-1-60-2;

Brith: 10-0-57-0; Alleyne 7-0-34-1; Bell 10
C-49-1; Harcock 9-0-34-0

EL Cunfife b Hatton

1 T H C Harcock e House b Martin-Jeniors 1

TH C Russell not out 10-14

"M W Alleyne C Chiton b Martin-Jeniors 1

A J Wright & Singh b House 3

J Lewis C Pyemott b House 3

J Lewis C Pyemott b House 2

EL Davies on law b House 2 J Wright & Singh b House 93
Lewis & Pyemont b House 4
I Deavon low b House 2
I Deavon low b House 6
I Deavon Loweridge b Martin-Jenkins 2
I A Walsh & Loweridge b House 0
Dotres (b4 w20 nb4) 272 Intel (for 9, 50 overs). Fall: 1-12, 2-28, 3-22, 4-235, 5-340, 6-246, 7-250, 8-264, 9-272 Did not bat A M Smith.

Sex sex A M Smor.

Bowling: Marin-Jenkins 10-3-39-3; Hutton
7-9-27-1; Davies 10-6-1-0; Chiton 8-0-590; House 9-0-58-5; Loueridge 8-0-34-0
Umptres; J F Steele and A G T Whitehead. Kent v Surrev ANTERBUTY: Surrey best Kent by four Sunay worl IO48

Wright's great efforts apart, the home batting was unimpressive too, with opener Tim Hancock's 16 the next best score. The Universities captain,

Anurag Singh, set the tone by hitting 56 off 88 balls, with four boundaries. He shared a secondwicket stand of 96 with Mark balls as the students posted an Chilton. Then came the accelimpressive 279 for 5 from their eration the Universities needed, Then he weighed in with 5 for and seven fours in his 64, made

Gloucestershire were soon in deep trouble at 29 for 3 in reply before a stand between Russell and Wright added 207 for the fourth wicket. Russell's runs came off 137 balls, with a spilling three catches in an six and eight fours, while balk to spare.

Sacjain Mushtaq.
Bowling: Headley 9-0-59-1; Igglesden 8-0-39-0; Pleming: 8-0-37-2; Patel: 10-0-58-2; Hooper 7-1-28-1; Eatharn 7-1-26-1; Eatharn 7-1-28-1; Eatharn 7-1-28-1; Eatharn 7-1-28-1; Eatharn 7-1-28-1; Eatharn 8-1

LAKENHAM: Warwickshire best Minor Counties by six wicksts.

Minor Co v Warwickshire

es, 9-70. Bowling: Giddins 10-3-14-2; Brown 10-2-21-1; Welch 9-2-20-3; Smell 10-0-19-0; Hemp 8)-0-32-4.

8)-0-32-4.
WARWICKSHIRE
N V Knight c Goldsmith b Sharp
N M K Smith c Nicholson b Goldsmith
D L Henry c Sharp b Goldsmith
A F Giles c Dean b Goldsmith

rail: 1-31, 2-33, 3-49, 4-58.
Did not bet: G.C. Small, D.R. Brown, †K.J. Piper, G. Welch, E.S. H. Glotche.
Bowring: Newman 4-0-19-0; Sharp 7-0-21-1; Goldernith 7-2-22-2; Pennett 5-0-43-1; Fielding 1-0-4-0.
Umphres: P. Willey and A. Clarkson.

MORTHAMPTON: Leicestarehire best Northemptonshire by eight wickets.

Northants v Leicestershire

Ventemptonshire won 1088

Northemptorships won loss
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
D J Capel low b Lowis
M B Loye c Noon b Mulady
"K M Curran b Wells
R J Basley c Naon b Wells
T C Wellon c Hebbb b Mason
J N Snape c Neon b Mulady
J N Snape c Neon b Mulady

H Bisley and out

TA C Lara not out

Retraffe low b Patel Holioake c & b Headley

P Sicknell not out ... bras (1510, w6, n56)...

by the home lower order.

A sixth-wicket stand of 83 in 11 overs between Durham's Martin Speight and Mike Foster vesterday wrecked Scotland's Scots made 210 for 6 after choosing to bat at Chester-le-Street and looked certain winners when they reduced Durham to 120 for 5 in the 37th over. But Speight hit 55 and Foster 35 to set up a two-wicket win with nine

O; Penberthy 62-0-43-0; Curren 5-0-20 Capel 6-0-25-1; Snape 6-0-27-0 Umpires: J Holder and T E Jesty.

TODAY'S

NUMBER

The number of tickets for foot-

bails World Cup finals in France

that remain on sale. The only

metiches not yet sold out are

Cameroon v Australia, Italy v

Chile, Chile v Austria, Spain v Bul-

garia, Nigeria v Paraguay and

South Africa v Saudi Arabia. Over

one milion tickets were posted

vesterday, after being stuck in an

airport hanger in Châteauroux for

two days due to a postal strike.

3,000

Sporting Digest Football The Middlesbrough manager, Bryan Robson, will play in Chris Morriss lestimonial against Nottingham Forest at the Riverside Stadium on Piday. The 40-year-old forms: England captain has not played for Boro since a 2-0 defeat at Arsenal on New Year's Day 1997.

Athletics Attrictors

Spain's Fermin Cacho, the world championship 1,500m silver medalist and European 1,500m record holder, said yesterday that he will return to competition in a road race in Madrid on 15 May. Cacho injured an arkle while weight training in November and was unable to run for two months.

Next week's IAAF Grand Prix meet-Next week's IAAF Grand Prix meeting in Jakarta, scheduled for 16 May, has been called off because of indonesia's economic crisis, the organ-isers announced yesterday. Baseball

DAS-EDBH
AMERICAN LEAGUE: Boston 4 Minnesota 2: Cleveland 6 Betirnore 5; Karses City
4 Tempa Bay 2; New York Yerkee 7 Tiesse
2; Terrorto 15 Ansheim 11; Seattle 8 Chicago Write Sox 1. Postponed: Oxidand v Detroit.

Troit.
MATHONAL LEAGUE: Sun Francisco 8
Florida 2 (10 Innings); Montreal 3 Cincinnati
2; Colorado 6 Philadelorita 1; Pitasburgh 5
St Louis 2; Atlanta 8 Los Angeles 3; New York Mets 9 Artzona 1; Houston 10 Chica-go Cube 5; San Diego 13 Milwautee 4. Basketball

DASKETUDAN NBA CONFERENCE PLAY-OFFS (best of seven series): Indiana 93 New York 83 (In-diana lead series 1-0); Utah 83 San Anto-nio 82 (Utah lead series 1-0). Bowls BOWIS
WATERLOO LADIES PAIRS: Final day qualificate: D Hughes & H Sylvester (Wigen) by C Johnson & B Rawcliffe (Poution) 21-8; P Davis & J. Jones (Heavest) bt I Ecclesione & F McMesken (Wood Pumpton) 21-11; V Bury & B. Lever (Backburn) bt R Brabin & M Smatey (Botton) 21-10; C Bleekley & P McQuirk (Remsbottom) bt B Mesior & B Jones (Botton) 21-16.

Susser — 3 0 3 0 0

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (Second day of four): Edgbaston: Kent 423 for 6 dec (R W T Key 88, J H Baldook 78, N J Liong 70, S lobal S2no) and 17 for 0 Warwickshire 365 for 8 dec (M J Powell 108, T Frost 87). Chesterfield: Yorkshire 204 and 10 for 3 M J Wood 60) Derbyshire 54, New Road: Northampionshire 469 for 8 dec (K J brase 187, T C Welson 100, G White 48 M J Resensity 4-104); Worcestershire 25 for 6 (R M S Weston 84).

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (First day of three): Bristol University: Durham 300 for 8 dec (J A Delay 102, A Part S8no); Glouzstershire 34 for 0, Old Tradford: Lancashire 35 br 8 dec (B Wood 77, R Amin 5-15); Surrey 17 for 0.

AON TROPHY (One day): Histodicky: Leleastershire 25 for 8 (D I Stephens 54, D Williamson 55) Middlesex 212 (K P Dutch 55), Leleastershire won by 34 runs. Johnny Nelson has been forced to withdraw from Saturday's vacant European cruiserweight title fight at Sheffield's Hillsborrough Leisure Centre against Russials Alexander llin, due to a back injury.

to a back injury.

The 47-year-old Roberto Duran of Panama, who has held titles in four different weight classes, will challenge the American fighter, William Joppy, for his World Boding Association middleweight title. The contest will be on the undercard of Evander Hotyfields heavyweight fight against Henry Akinwanda in New York next month.

Racing results

UTTOXETER

6 fay; 2. Rusty Fellow 7-2; 3. Ledwyche Gete 5-1 5.ran. 16, 11/L (T Wallord). Tote

£140; £130, £180. Dual Forecast; £190.

2. Funky 7-2 fav; 3. Chipalata 20-1, 15 ran. 14, hd. (K Burke). Tota: £730; £280.

\$130, \$590. Dual Forecast: \$39.70, CSF

£2606. Tricest £36993. Non Aureners:

Pause For Thought, Pluvius & Tudor Fal-con, Trio: £25730 part won. Pool of £79.73

in for 6,800 guiness. 6,50: 1. THE MALAKARMA (Mr B Pol

carried forward to Friday. Winner bought

omputer Straight Forecast: £296, 6.20: 1. SPECIALIZE (M Griffiths) 6-1;

5.50: 1. RED REBEL (Mr N Wilson) 4-

urday and will miss the Second Divi-sion promotion play-offs.

Aston Villa are considering signing the Australian international laft-back Den-ny Tiatto, 24, who has spent the last sk months of the season on loan at Stoke City from his Swiss club, Baden. Macclesfield Town have said that all of their Second Division home games next sesson will be all-ticket. The South Korean government has de-cided to go ahead with a new stadi-um for the 2002 World Cup finals.

Government departments involved in preparations met to decide whether to build a new stadium or save money by renovating Seouts Chamsul stadium. The former Germany goalkseper Har-ald Schumacher, who earned notoriety for his foul on France's Patrick Battis-ton at the 1982 World Cup, has been

TOTAL WOODS Trable change: 20pts 23/07/400, 19 279725, 18 2565, 17 2385, Half-thes: 20pts 532 Four draws 225385, Nine homes 55650, Pive everys 2260, VERNONS: Trable chance: 19pts 22/07/75, 18 2935, 17 2175.

Iudo

WETHERBY son when Kilbride Lad took the 8.05: 1. ISLAND SANCTUARY (R Thornton) 5-4 tar; 2. Alcalell 9-4; 3. Freedom Chance 12-1 13 ran. 2, 3 (D Balmoral Juvenile Novice Hurdle at Chepstow vesterday. And just Micholson). Tota: £240; £181, £180, £390. Dual Forecast: £210. Computer Straight Forecast: £381 Trio: £1200.

6.35: 1. ORGAN RECITAL (M Bremen) 3-1; 2. Purevalue 7-4 Jt fav; 3. Radical Choice 7-4 Jt fav. 7 ran. 1/4, 14. (O Brennam), Tote: £3.80; £1.30, £1.60, Dual Fore-cast: £2.90, Computer Straight Forecast: 2844, Non Runner: Pher Echo 7.05.1. PHILIP'S WOODY (M A Fitzger-sid) 5-1; 2. Pentignds Flyer 10-1; 3. Rus-tic Air 9-1, 11 ran. 6, Ind. (N Henderson). Tota: £530; £210, £240, £150. Dual Fors-

lock) 8-1; 2. Lord Relic 4-5 fer; 3. Ket-ties 9-1, 9 ran. 13, 14. (Airs Ceroline Balley). Tota: 2560; 2160, 2110, 2270, Dual Fore-cast: 2360. CSF: £1445. Tric: £1850. Non David Nicholson saddled 100 winners by now and who knows the summer to freshen myself up winners for the third time in a sea- how many more," the trainer for next year."

expense of his arch rival, Martin Pipe, who was hoping to make it a double century with eventual runner-up Rainbow Star. "We've COST: \$18.70, CSF: \$50.53. Tricast: \$41.41.

always stopped at 100 in the past.

the gallop in the straight to score for good measure the master of Jackdaws Castle hit the ton at the by two and a half lengths. "Chepstow's been very lucky for me and my family as I rode my first winner here on a horse called Fairval in 1955 and also partnered three winners of the Welsh National but this time we are going to car- here," Nicholson added. "We've ry on and establish new figures for now got over £900,000 in prize the yard," stated Nicholson. "We money and I've achieved what I hit a blank spot earlier this year wanted to achieve at the start of when some of the horses were the season and I'll be off on holwrong or we would have had 125 iday to Botswana and Namibia in

Today's fixtures UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE FIRST

Speedway ELITE LEAGUE: Swindon v Ipswich (7.20).

Other sports EQUESTRIANISM: Badmenton Horse Trials

Footbali

By Paul Walker

JOE ROYLE and Willie Donachie have committed themselves as Manchester City's is still a lot of talking to do." managerial team into the next

fielder lan Brightwell. The City manager has signed a new three-year deal, adding another 12 months to his existing con-Donachie has agreed a two-year extension to the one-year agreement he already had.

However, while Royle and his No 2 were putting pen to paper. the axe was falling on the players, the biggest shock being the decision not to offer the longserving Brightwell a new deal.

The goalkeeper Martyn Margetson has also been released, while Craig Russell and Ged Brannan have been put on a transfer list which is set to include players who have cost the club more than £4m in the past three seasons.

Uwe Rösler has aiready left Maine Road for Kaiserslautern, and the £5m-rated Georgi Kinkladze is on his way to Ajax.

Richard Edghill, another who is out of contract, has signed a new four-year deal, while the teenage striker Leon gram, Barry Conlon and Eddie Mike has also accepted a four-

Kit Symons' future, though, is in doubt. The defender dadze and Murtaz Shelia terday and will have further dis- from a serious knee injury.

cussions later this week. It is believed the new offer to Symons the 50-plus playing staff by is a massive cut in his current more than 20 to cut the current wages. He said: "I have had a £7m wage bill by half before City chat with the boss, and there has embark on their first season of been an offer made - but there

For Brightwell, though, it is a sad end to an 18-year associ-Royle, meanwhile, has al- ation with the club he joined as ready begun making ruthless a 12-year-old. Half-way through cuts in the City playing staff - his testimonial season, he said: starting with the veteran mid- "Joe has told me he can't offer me a new contract because of the financial situation the club is in. I felt sick walking out of his office. I have been at City tract, while his assistant Willie all those years and never wanted to leave. I was a supporter a player, so it is doubly sad.

"I have been told I can still have my testimonial match, hopefully pre-season, but it has knocked me sideways, really. I still believe I can do a good job for a First Division club and could still even play in the Premiership. I will keep all my options open and hope something comes up, but leaving City will

take a lot of getting over." Russell, who joined City in November as part of the £1m swap that took Nicky Summerbee to Sunderland, and Brannan will go on a transfer list that includes many of the dozen players who have been out on loan in recent months, includ-

ing Martin Phillips, Paul Beesley, Neil Heaney, Rae In-McGoldrick. City also want to sell the likes of Nigel Clough, Scott Hiley, Khakaber Tskhaopened talks with Royle yes- when the latter has recovered the treatment table.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

Royle is looking to reduce third-grade football. He is de-

termined to drag City back into the big time, and said: "It took Willie and me about two minutes to agree to the extensions. I am very impressed with the club's ambitions and I honestly think we have the basis of a decent side here. 'Our immediate aim is to get

back into the First Division, but the long-term plan is to battle back to the Premiership," Royle added. "To be honest, despite of the team before I joined as relegation, there is a great spirit about the club and a belief in what we are doing."

City's chairman, David Bernstein, said: "We are delighted that Joe and Willie have decided to further commit themselves to the club. They have, as the board do, great confidence in the club. It will take hard work and commitment, but we are united as a team in the quest to deliver the aspirations our fans so richly deserve."

Seven Chelsea first-team players were yesterday still receiving treatment on injuries that are threatening their involvement in Sunday's relegation decider against Bolton at Stamford Bridge.

Just a week before the European Cup-Winners' Cup final against VfB Stuttgart, Franck Leboeuf, Gianfranco Zola, Frank Sinclair, Michael Duberry, Dennis Wise, Graeme Le Saux and Andy Myers are all on

More football, page 28

Muster back on track on the red stuff



Thomas Muster plays a backhand during his straight-sets win over Yevgeny Kafelnikov at the German Open in Hamburg yesterday. Afterwards the former world No I dismissed reports that he was planning to retire. I want to play for another three years, he said Report, page 29; Photograph: PA

- **ACROSS** Hard hat needed when he's delivering! (4,6) administration providing for
- lost child (4) 10 Tort was remedied by a sort of accommodation (3-4) Fatty ingredients in soap I'd analysed finally detectable
- Several divers? (9) 13 Aim to catch large animals
- primarily antelope (5)
 14 Colloquial term for food evokes mockery (5) 15 Painter associated with last
- month's speaker (9)
 17 Visual aid with no need for aural support (9)
- Standard Civil Service reaction - to produce paper no- 4 one wants (5) Social group makes patient tense inside (5)

Key left in custody of chap in Information Technology

- 25 Head's article taken from Prometheus Unbound (7) 26 A plover flying for cover, partially? (7)
 27 South American lieutenar naval man (4)
- Character one caught near centre of Rhyl travelling very fast? (10) DOWN
- Corpulent journalist is marked down (5) Grass surface provided for workforce (4-5)
- prit? (6-8) Outmoded defence containing high explosive, atomic?

od Avenue, Oldham. Back issues avuilable from Historic Newspape

White wine served in the Spanish college is somewhat riable (7)

- Bouquet sent up by inamorata? (5)
- amoraia? (3)
 Practical instruction for
 pupils as horses fall (5,4)
 Prefers servile treatment in
 clubs? (4,10)
 Errors in only written document to include former Soviet republics (9)
- 16 Waterproof cover boy's left in train, unfortunately (9) 18 Play with two others, per-haps, in attempt to secure individual record? (7)
- 19 Old tramp initially expected to blow his top? (7)
 22 Part of flower originally pressed in war, perhaps (5)
 24 Subject featured in Canalet-
- to picture (5) ©Published by Newspaper Publishing PLC, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E145DL, and printed at Mirror Colour Print, St.

French lottery cuts red tape for British fencer

Sports funding

By Mike Rowbottom

THE nation's best fencer, lan Williams, has found a way of avoiding problems of gaining National Lottery funding which afflicted so many élite British performers. He has found support from the French Lottery system.

Williams, who competes for Britain and took part in last year's World Championships, has fenced for the last two seasons with clubs based in Paris which are subsidised from the

French lottery funds. His French funding through the perforclub pays for him to represent Britain in World Cup events.

That is a benefit which continues to elude Williams's British-based colleague, James Williams (no relation). James, who reached the last 32 of the sabre event at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, before losing to the silver medallist has seen his hopes of funding delayed by bureaucracy. While other fencers in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales have been paid directly by their national sports councils,

mance plan submitted by the British Fencing Association. That plan has been rejected by the UK Sports Council, and an application for an interim grant is, in James's words, "in the pipeline". No decision is expected until August, by which time James needs to be in Malaysia for the Commonwealth Games.

James was only able to attend a recent World Cup event in Greece through a £500 grant from his local council in Gilling-James has had to wait for his funding he has had in a year.

hope, so too must the British bobsleighers who won an Olympic bronze medal in Nagano two months ago. Sean Olsson, who steered the four man bob to Britain's first Winter Olympic medal since 1964 spoke yesterday of his frustration on learning that their success did not guarantee a continuing flow

While he can only wait and

of National Lottery funding. Last year's funding delays meant, Olsson estimates, that each member had had to find ham. It is the largest amount of around £6,000 to subsidise living and travel expenses. Once

again this year, no funding is expected until September.

"It's all red tape," said Olsson, a paratrooper based in Aldershot. "There has been no continuity. As far as I'm concerned we had fulfilled our end of the bargain by coming home with a medal."

Apart from financing trips to Gibraltar and Calgary, where the team spent a month last year. there are more mundane costs petrol money for trips to their only training venue in Britain, a rusting push-start run on waste ground at the back of the Thorpe Park amusements in Surrey.







